



GOURMET FOOD SUPPLIER

BOOK 03

Cat Who Can Cook

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Gourmet Food Supplier

(美食供应商)

by

Cat Who Can Cook

(会做饭的猫)

Synopsis

There exists a strange little stall in the far east that has repeatedly rejected the designation of 3 Michelin Stars.

The prices there are high with a bowl of Egg Fried Rice with soup costing 288RMB. Oh, I forget that it also comes with a plate of pickled cabbage, but even so, many people continue to queue up for it.

That place doesn't accept reservations, only people who line up on the spot are accepted, countless people hire others to queue up for them, and of course, parking isn't provided.

The place has terrible service, and actually asks their customers to bus their own tables, oh and also wipe the table. Oh god! The boss of this place is simply mad."

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Chapter 201: Kitchen Monster

(Continuation)

"Are you sure about letting me cook first?" Wu Hai looked at Yuan Zhou with a suspicious look.

"Humm, no problem," Yuan Zhou indicated that it was no problem to watch a novice cook dishes. Although, he himself was no more than a novice in the evaluation of the Master Chef.

"Ok, you decide," Wu Hai shrugged carelessly.

"Yes, let's go," Yuan Zhou nodded and urged him with a word.

When they arrived at the second floor, Wu Hai went up and opened the door. As usual, Yuan Zhou said, "Of dirty, disorderly and bad taste, your room fulfills two criteria."

"The rough sketches of all the paintings cannot be discarded casually," Wu Hai still knew about shame.

Besides, the rough sketch of the painters indeed couldn't be discarded casually, especially for a well-known painter.

"Ho Ho," Yuan Zhou answered with two meaningful words and revealed an expression of "You try to comprehend by yourself".

"Zheng Jiawei will clear them away in a moment," Wu Hai

recalled Zheng Jiawei and said naturally.

"You have got a really good broker," Yuan Zhou said admiringly when he thought of the almighty broker of Wu Hai.

"Humm, he's really nice." Only when he talked to others did Wu Hai speak highly of Zheng Jiawei.

Since Yuan Zhou started to learn the composition, he had been to Wu Hai's art studio for three times. When he came for the first time, he discovered his hesitation of the previous time when he had intended to look for Wu Hai was completely unnecessary, because the entire second floor was Wu Hai's home.

Wu Hai had rented the entire floor as his home and art studio. Rich people were always so capricious.

As for the remaining time, he just spent it on studying the composition in his restaurant. Since he seldom went to other people's places, it was likewise the first time that he had seen Wu Hai's kitchen.

A large kitchen was left in the two rooms that were connected. Inside the kitchen was a full set of brand-new kitchenware with the metallic surface glittering, appearing rather clean. However, everything was basically new and totally unused except for a cup on top of the kitchen range.

"You have never used them once?" Yuan Zhou felt at least they

were supposed to be used once, even if just for instant noodles.

"Your restaurant was opened not long after I moved here. Therefore, I don't need them anymore," Wu Hai answered straightforwardly.

"Well, what about the remaining time?" Yuan Zhou asked vaguely, generally indicating there was also some time when he had to shut the door and sleep.

"When your restaurant is closed, I naturally stay hungry. What do you otherwise think?" The grudges of Wu Hai instantly emitted into the air.

"He's really a loyal and devoted fan, isn't he?" Yuan Zhou thought in the heart.

"You can clear your kitchen first and do the cooking in a while," Yuan Zhou stood up straight and said while pointing at the kitchen.

"You want to change the subject," Wu Hai made the conclusion and didn't intend to move.

"If you don't wipe them clean, you can eat the dishes cooked by yourself," seeing Wu Hai just standing there straight, Yuan Zhou said bluntly.

"I'm good at painting while Jiawei is good at this work," stroking

his small mustache, Wu Hai said frankly.

"As you please," Yuan Zhou wouldn't force him to clear away the kitchen. After all, he was also not good at washing the bowls.

"I'm coming in." With the sound of a rotating lock passing from the door, Zheng Jiawei entered while carrying a heap of ingredients.

"You eventually come back. Please just clean the kitchen and leave the ingredients to me," Wu Hai said naturally.

"I have prepared the ingredients for the dishes of Stewed Beef Brisket with Tomato, Stir-fried Chicken Nuggets with Green Pepper, Sautéed Sliced Pork with Pepper and Chili and last the Stir-fried Cabbage as well as the dessert dish of the watermelon fruit mix and the radishes that you require."

He first greeted Yuan Zhou smilingly and then went to the kitchen with the ingredients. While he was taking them out, he said that.

"Humm, wash the kitchen first," Wu Hai was eager to have a try on Yuan Zhou's teaching.

"It's too early for the lunch if you start to cook at this time of the day," Zheng Jiawei took a look at the time.

"No, it won't happen. I will do the cooking," Wu Hai originally

meant that he cooked slowly.

"Are you saying you will cook?" Zheng Jiawei opened his eyes wide and extended a feminine orchid finger before saying in disbelief while pointing at Wu Hai.

"Yes. I haven't cooked by myself for a long time," Wu Hai said affirmatively.

"Then I will leave after I do the cleaning," Zheng Jiawei had never uttered words so decisively.

"Who's gonna clear away the leftovers after cooking?" Wu Hai hadn't thought of cleaning the leftovers by himself. As for Yuan Zhou, he definitely wouldn't help him. There was no need to ask.

"I will come in the evening to clear them away," Zheng Jiawei said firmly.

Moreover, he did not speak much this time. Instead, he just started to clean the kitchen earnestly with an extraordinarily fast speed.

Within an hour, he made the kitchen as clean and neat as a brand-new one.

"It's settled. You can use it now. I'm leaving," before Zheng Jiawei left, he looked at Yuan Zhou with a sympathetic expression.

Yuan Zhou was a little puzzled. With his sensitive instinct, however, he still believed Wu Hai definitely had problems, hence was alarmed.

"Is he like a kitchen killer?" Yuan Zhou guessed randomly.

"The processing of the ingredients will still be left to me?" Wu Hai turned the head and asked Yuan Zhou who had been standing at the door.

"Humm, you do that. You can start now," Yuan Zhou held his hands against his chest and stood at the door. Of course, the tips of his toes were obliquely heading towards the door.

He acted that way as if Wu Hai were going to bomb the kitchen.

"Ok," Wu Hai nodded and took out the ingredients to wash.

Everything went normally at the start. With the water flowing with a sound of "Hua Hua", the vegetables and other ingredients were washed clean one after another and put on the countertop to stand by.

"Nice work. You can put them in the pan now," after a careful observation, Yuan Zhou found that Wu Hai had done a good job.

"Humm," Wu Hai answered. After that, he lit the fire and

prepared to put the ingredients into the pan.

Only then did Yuan Zhou discover that there were no flavorings at all on the countertop of the kitchen as well as edible oil.

"Peng", Wu Hai pulled open a cabinet and took out a large sprinkling can from inside and then started to pour it into the pan.

"What does that mean?" Yuan Zhou was really confused.

Not until when he poured the liquid out did Yuan Zhou discover it was the edible oil, which flowed out of the shower head into the pan. Yuan Zhou became a little speechless.

Subsequently, Wu Hai picked up a big painting brush and started to brush in the pan.

"What are you doing?" Yuan Zhou couldn't help asking.

"I'm making the edible oil fully cover the bottom," on Wu Hai's face was an expression of earnest.

"You continue," Yuan Zhou pressed his forehead and started to have an ominous sentiment.

Immediately after that, Wu Hai began to place the beef pieces all over the pan. Yes, it was the word of "place". Pieces of the beef were all where they were supposed to be.

The next step was to place the star anises. When Wu Hai added the cooking wine during the process, he also used a smaller sprinkling can. This way, it was quite clear which part required and which part didn't require the cooking wine.

Now Yuan Zhou finally knew why all the cooking pots were pans in Wu Hai's home. He was matter-of-factly painting rather than cooking the dishes.

However, it would be nonsense if he could make the dishes delicious that way.

Therefore, the sympathetic wink of Zheng Jiawei was now understandable. The kitchen killer could no longer apply to Wu Hai now. It should be more of a kitchen monster.

When it was getting close to the noon, Yuan Zhou organized his words and then said, "Let's go so far today. I need to go back and prepare for lunch."

"What about the remaining ingredients?" Wu Hai asked while looking at them on the top of the kitchen range.

"I will teach you step by step in the afternoon," Yuan Zhou took a look at the beef briskets that seemed to be a piece of art and said decisively.

"Ok," Wu Hai agreed squarely.

After that, Yuan Zhou returned to his restaurant. In the kitchen, he thought of the fierce manner of Wu Hai when he cooked. No matter whether it was required or not, Wu Hai would take out bottles of coloring materials and poured them into the pan while muttering something like "The color on this side is too light, and I need to add some red color." or "The brown color on that side is too light." etc.

That whole pan of the colorful Stewed Beef Brisket with Tomato greatly tested Yuan Zhou's tolerance. Who knew how he had weathered the several hours in Wu Hai's kitchen.

Luckily, someone interrupted Yuan Zhou's recollection at that time.

"Is Boss Yuan here?"....

Chapter 202: Rainbow Beef Brisket

"Boss Yuan, are you there?" A plump and smiling woman stood at the door of Yuan Zhou's restaurant and asked.

"Director Wu, what's the matter?" Yuan Zhou turned around and asked mildly.

"The staff of the street administration office has been talking all about you recently. Why do you have such good craftsmanship?" Director Wu said with courtesy. She was holding a file in one hand and a pen in the other.

"Thanks for your compliments," Yuan Zhou answered politely.

"You're welcome, you are welcome. Boss Yuan is always so courteous," Director Wu waved the hand.

"So why are you looking for me today?" Yuan Zhou didn't like small talk and hence asked straightforwardly.

"It's the time to pay for the street sanitation fee. Boss Yuan, so...?" Director Wu presented the portfolio to Yuan Zhou and asked him with a smile.

"Oh, I almost forgot. Thanks for your reminder, Director Wu" Yuan Zhou patted on his forehead and suddenly recalled this matter.

Every month, the street administration office charged the stores a sum of sanitation fee. If not so, who would clean the trash outside in the street?

"Is it still 50 RMB this month?" Yuan Zhou took out 50 RMB from the pocket inside the sleeve of the Chinese Han clothing and prepared to hand it to him.

"It increased a little bit to 60 RMB at the beginning of the month," Director Wu said politely.

"Ok. Thank you, Director Wu. The area outside my restaurant has been very clean recently," Yuan Zhou took out an extra 10 RMB and said in quite an earnest manner.

"Well, yes, yes. The cleaner works well," Director Wu got surprised first and then echoed unnaturally.

"Thank you," Yuan Zhou nodded and thanked her.

"You are welcome. You are welcome. It's our responsibility. Boss Yuan, I'm leaving to visit other stores for the sanitation fee," Director Wu took the money and prepared to leave with an embarrassed smile.

"Did I make her embarrassed?" Yuan Zhou was a little puzzled. Was it because he complimented her too much?

However, Yuan Zhou indeed felt the street was quite clean. Every

morning when he opened the door, it was always very clean, without even a single leaf.

Just as he was prepared to go inside, Yuan Zhou was attracted by his neighbor Boss Tong's words and then stayed there.

"Why is it increasing again? It has increased for quite a few times this year. What's the situation?" Boss Tong's voice contained great dissatisfaction.

"Boss Tong, you should know that inflation is severe now. Even the labor cost has likewise increased," Director Wu explained with a smiling expression.

"You have to show me something to prove the price increase. Otherwise, how would I know if it's true?" Boss Tong still said aggressively.

"Here you are. This is the notification from the street administration office. Everything is mentioned on it," Director Wu took out an A4 paper and handed it to Boss Tong.

Boss Tong received the paper and carefully looked at it. As a matter of fact, she couldn't read many characters but still knew the two characters of price increase. When she found that there wasn't any problem, she handed the paper back to Director Wu. However, Boss Tong still had no intention to pay her the money immediately while standing at the door.

"Ok, I will pay. But could you guys please clean the street better? Every morning I have to sweep the ground again," Boss Tong said discontentedly.

"Don't worry. I will report your complaints to those who are in charge of this work." Director Wu was rather earnest when she talked about the work.

"Just reporting? I have made quite a few complaints," it seemed that Boss Tong intended to demand a settlement today.

"Yes, it's true. Director Wu, you must rectify and improve this matter. It's also dirty outside around my store." A female proprietress of a small restaurant, located several stores away from Boss Tong's store, also gathered there to complain.

"Hi, Boss Shen. Please read this notification," Director Wu first handed the notification of increasing the prices to her with a smile.

"Oh, my god. Did the fee increase again? With such a small business and low profit, the fees are nevertheless so high," with a fashionably curly and brown hair, Boss Shen started to scream while pinching the notification in her hand.

"The sanitation fee remains the same everywhere," Director Wu said, revealing a manner of "Business is business".

"I have the same idea with Boss Tong. We can accept the price increase but you must solve the problem of the bad sanitation,"

Boss Shen said firmly.

"I will for sure report the problems to them. Don't worry," no wonder Director Wu worked in the street administration office. She had sufficient patience and tried to mediate the disputes unhurriedly even in front of the heated verbal exchange.

"Then let's make a deal now. You solve the problem for us quickly, otherwise you won't collect the money so easily next month," Boss Shen and Boss Tong almost said at the same time.

"Trust me. I will definitely report your complaints to them," Director Wu agreed enthusiastically.

Only after that did Boss Tong and Boss Shen take out the money and gave it to her.

Yuan Zhou frowned when he was watching the scene at the side. Why was the street outside his restaurant clean while Boss Tong of the neighboring store said it was dirty and moreover even made complaints several times? In order to verify the authenticity, he stood there longer and then found almost every store owner made the same complaints, saying it was dirty at the door.

"What's the matter?" Yuan Zhou thought with puzzlement. Only then did he recall the embarrassed expression of Director Wu when he had complimented her just now.

It seemed that he needed to leave earlier than usual to jog on the

next morning and observe for a while.

Since he couldn't understand, he decided to observe it in person. After all, it was the truth that the street at the door of his restaurant was so clean.

Yuan Zhou decided to prepare the lunch first as lunch time was coming soon.

When there were only a few minutes left, Wu Hai entered the restaurant while holding a black earthenware pot with a lid that was covered tight.

"Brother Wu, are you also imitating me?" Wu Zhou said with sympathy at the side.

"No, this is the achievement after Boss Yuan has taught me." Wu Hai was quite confident in his skills under Yuan Zhou's instructions.

"No, I have nothing to do with that," Yuan Zhou immediately denied.

What a joke. He had seen in person how it was like inside the pot. If he admitted the dish was made after his instructions, his reputation would all be gone with the wind.

"But in the morning..." Wu Hai set down the earthenware pot and was then interrupted by Yuan Zhou before he could finish his

sentence.

"I just watched you cook a pan of this thing," Yuan Zhou truly didn't have the heart to describe the stuff in the earthenware pot as a dish.

"Why don't you taste it now?" Wu Hai asked persistently although Yuan Zhou had already refused him.

"No, thanks. You might as well ask them to have a taste," Yuan Zhou took a step back without a trace.

Even at the current position, he could smell the indescribable taste from the earthenware pot. It was definitely because he had a sensitive nose rather than the feeling of dread.

"So do you guys want to have a try?" Wu Hai pointed at the earthenware pot and asked.

After the restaurant became silent for a while, someone answered.

"Let me try," as Wu Zhou was fairly familiar with Wu Hai, he agreed to try first.

"Let's have a try, too. We still have to wait for some time, therefore we can stuff the stomach temporarily," two lovers likewise said curiously.

"Humph. This aged man won't eat such messy stuff," Lee Yanyi just stood there with his back perfectly straight.

"I didn't invite you to eat. Such a person that always breaks his words," Wu Hai said snappily.

"The stuff would probably poison me to death. You can keep it to yourself," Lee Yanyi said viciously.

"No. This is art. Look at the extraordinarily beautiful color," Wu Hai unveiled the cover confidently.

Then, Wu Zhou became frightened and asked, "What's this?"

"Stewed Beef Brisket with Tomato. Look at the magnificent color, the taste should also be nice," Wu Hai pointed at the inside of the pot that basically contained 7 colors and then said with satisfaction.

There were not only 7 colors in the pot but they were also layered. Only the widest strip in the middle was the ordinary tomato red. As for the other colors, Wu Zhou indicated that he no longer dared to watch.

What the f*ck was this?

...

Chapter 203: Cleaning

"What the fu*k. What the hell is this?" the young lovers screamed at the same time.

"Beef briskets. Haven't you seen them before? Fussy fellows," Wu Hai cast a glance at the young lovers with discontent.

"Sweetheart, didn't you say that you had eaten much in the morning and had flatulence? I guess you are not hungry, right?" The man of the lovers regained conscious after being reminded by the pointed fingernails of his girlfriend and then said that in response to her.

"Yes, exactly. I'm sorry, Brother Wu. We are not hungry today. Let's try to savor your dishes next time," with a pair of big and lovable eyes, the girl said sincerely.

Sometimes, women were more touching when they were telling lies.

"Ok. Wu Zhou, you try," Wu Hai first answered them and then turned the head and said to Wu Zhou while looking at him.

"Well, I don't feel good with my stomach and hence especially come here to eat vegetable dishes. I'd prefer to eat vegetables today," Wu Hai fully utilized his wits of his past year and finally thought of an excuse.

"You are scared?" Wu Hai wasn't stupid. While stroking his small mustache, he realized the problem and then said discontentedly.

"No, definitely no. But my girlfriend requested me to eat vegetables. You know, I'm henpecked," Wu Zhou said with an expression of happiness.

"Tsk-tsk. The unexpected flaunt of your love comes all of a sudden," Wu Hai felt rather speechlessly and then he answered.

Having failed in peddling to all people around, Wu Hai finally realized no one would eat his beef briskets today and thus directly put the earthenware pot down at the door disappointedly.

As there was such a pot at the door of Yuan Zhou's restaurant, customers waiting in the line consciously all made way for it.

At that time, the dog Broth that was begging for food everywhere arrived.

With its sharp eyes, Broth aimed at the earthenware pot beside Wu Hai and ran to it quickly. After it smelled the pot, however, it ran away immediately with a faster speed.

"Ha Ha. Even the dog is scared away by your dish," just when Lee Yanyi was about to enter the door, he caught sight of the scene and then laughed happily.

"You think more than needed. It's definitely because someone is

calling for it," Wu Hai took up the earthenware pot and prepared to go back home. It seemed that he still needed to have his lunch in Yuan Zhou's restaurant.

"Even the dog doesn't like to eat it," Lee Yanyi sniffed and made the conclusion.

"What do you want to eat, everybody?" The clear and melodious voice of Mu Xiaoyun sounded at Lee Yanyi's ears.

"Translucent Beef Slices and a bowl of white rice," Lee Yanyi only ordered a dish and a food every time so that he could eat all up.

"What a bloody rule is this? It's still not altered. Sooner or later, this restaurant will go bankrupt," seeing that the rule of whoever wasted food being blacklisted still written on the wall, Lee Yanyi started to grumble again.

Mu Xiaoyun had already get used to Lee Yanyi's strange attitude of coming to eat frequently while scolding severely by now. Scolding might be able to help him with the digestion.

Lee Yanyi ate quickly. After chewing carefully and swallowing slowly for twenty minutes, he finished the meal.

His assistant Yan Jia was waiting outside the restaurant for him when he walked out of the door.

"Professor, are we going to the university town right now?" Yan

Jia went up and opened the car door for him.

"Humm, let's go there directly," Lee Yanyi got seated in the car and nodded.

The car then pulled away smoothly. After quite a while, Yan Jia asked, "Professor, why do you never write comments for this nameless restaurant?"

"Are you so curious?" Lee Yanyi opened his eyes and took a look at Yan Jia.

"If Professor can tell me, I would like to know," Yan Jia drove the car attentively and answered earnestly.

"Because I don't want to write," Lee Yanyi said squarely.

"But you like to go there for meals very much," Yan Jia's words were full of suspicion.

"The dishes are not bad. After I eat all the new dishes, I will not go there anymore and neither will I write any comments about it." This time, Lee Yanyi didn't say it randomly. Instead, he uttered those words in a quite serious manner.

"I understand now, professor," Yan Jia turned the head and took a glance at his professor. With a sudden inspiration flashing across his mind, he understood what Lee Yanyi meant.

"It's good that you understand. So now drive the car carefully," upon finishing speaking that, Lee Yanyi continued to close his eyes and rest his mind.

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On the next morning, Yuan Zhou changed into sportswear and went out jogging.

"Hoo", it was fairly tiring. While jogging, Yuan Zhou tried to breathe according to the method written in the books, but nevertheless felt even more tired.

After jogging for a lap, he especially made a detour to the entrance of his restaurant.

"It truly is different," Yuan Zhou stopped to observe the areas in front of his restaurant and the neighboring Boss Tong's store and then said with puzzlement.

The place in front of Yuan Zhou's restaurant and his pub was clean and neat. It could be clearly seen that this place had been carefully cleaned once. Comparatively, the leftover candy paper, some messy paper scraps and the dirt were scattered in front of Boss Tong's store.

Compared with Yuan Zhou's restaurant, the difference was quite obvious.

"What's going on?" Yuan Zhou wiped the perspiration with one hand and put the other on the waist.

"Hey, Broth. Do you know about the problem?" When he suddenly saw the dog Broth that was lying at the door, he asked naturally.

Broth nevertheless responded to him with an indescribable wink.

"Oh, I forget that you are only a dog and can't speak human language. Sorry," Yuan Zhou then reacted after asking.

He stood there for five minutes and then said, "Someone should have cleaned the area especially." He then decided to get up earlier the next morning to see who cleaned it.

To this kind of matter of helping others secretly, Yuan Zhou wanted to know very much. After all, everyone had curiosity.

The most favorite dishes provided by Yuan Zhou for breakfast were the Duck Oil Sesame Seed Cakes matched with the Lotus Root Starch.

"Only with the Duck Oil Sesame Seed Cake and Lotus Root Starch as the meal could life be considered perfect." The customers sighed with emotion while eating.

However, the breakfast time in Yuan Zhou's restaurant was really too short. Therefore, the remaining time all belonged to the hawkers who were selling foods around Yuan Zhou's restaurant.

"Granny, give me a steamed seasoned pork bun and a cup of soybean milk."

"Granny, get a steamed vegetable bun and soybean milk for me. Apart from Boss Yuan's dishes, your food is the most delicious," a young girl said sweetly to her.

A granny who carried two insulated barrels had the best business outside Yuan Zhou's restaurant. Everyone would basically come to buy some food for their breakfast.

"Thank you, girl. Take the steamed bun. The soybean milk is still hot, so drink it later," dressed in cotton print clothes, the grey-haired granny said graciously.

"I feel that the taste is only average. Why did you praise her like that?" The girl who had just complimented the granny was asked by her close friend beside her.

"But it's very clean. Didn't you notice her hands? They were very clean. Look at other hawkers. They even had black substances in their fingernails," the girl said while biting the steamed bun.

"You are saying such disgusting things," instantly, her friend didn't want to eat the fried bread stick that was held in her hand.

However, these little interludes didn't really affect the business of the granny. Soon her insulation barrels were empty.

Having returned to the place where she lived, the granny counted the money happily.

"The extra ten steamed buns that I cook are also sold out. The culinary skills of the young boss are undoubtedly good." The granny held a handful of small change in her skinny hand and was quite happy.

The steamed buns and soybean milk had to be fresh; therefore, getting up early was a must. The granny got up at 3:00 in the morning and following the prescribed order, she kneaded the dough and waited for it to rise. During the time of waiting, she took a broom and went out of the door instead of having a rest quietly.

The street at 3:40 in the morning was so silent that even the sanitation workers hadn't started to work. It was still dark.

After walking for fifteen minutes, the granny arrived at Yuan Zhou's restaurant. Under the dim streetlights, she picked up the broom and started to clean the street.

The dog Broth that always stayed alert just lifted itself up and took a look before it continued to lie down and sleep. Apparently, it was not the first time that the granny had come so early.

While waving the broom vigorously with a sound of "Hu Hu", she swept the ground once first and picked up the trash once again to make sure the ground was quite clean. Only after that did the granny take the broom and prepare to go home.

Chapter 204: Small Matters within One's Power

With the sound of "Hua Hua", the granny took the packed trash in one hand and the small broom in the other and began to go back. She didn't throw the trash until she came to the garbage recollecting station.

It was then 4:50 in the morning when the sanitation workers began to work. In the street lights and the dawn light, the granny began to walk back.

After she returned to her house, she first changed clothes and washed for a while before going to make the steamed buns.

With the steam curling up, the white and plump steamed buns emitted a heavy fragrance from the steamer pot.

"Although I don't know what the young boss will sell today, the business is nevertheless getting better and better," the granny muttered with a smile while laying the dough.

An expression of happiness was then revealed on her face.

The first thing that Yuan Zhou did after he got up at 4:30 was to pull open the curtain with a sound of "Hua". The ground in front of the door had been swept very clean while the sanitation workers were still cleaning from afar and had not arrived.

"There's really someone who helps with the cleaning. And he seems to move quickly," Yuan Zhou frowned and said to himself.

Then he got himself washed and prepared to head out for jogging. It was not 6:00 a.m. yet when he returned to his restaurant. At this time, he preferred to make the Steamed Assorted Vegetable Buns, which, as breakfast, was good for the health.

With Yuan Zhou's speed, 100 steamed buns were merely a piece of cake.

Just when Yuan Zhou was making the steamed buns, the granny carried the two insulation barrels and set off from her home.

Inside the insulation barrels were the steamed buns and cooked soybean milk, which seemed to be fairly heavy. The granny rested for a while for every 50 meters and then continued walking.

This time, the granny spent almost 50 minutes on the way while she had only walked for 15 minutes previously without taking anything. It was slightly after 7:00 a.m. when she arrived and many customers had been waiting outside of Yuan Zhou's restaurant. Having no time to take a rest, the granny started to go up and peddle her dishes.

"Steamed buns for sale, hot steamed buns and warm soybean milk," the sound of the granny was clear and loud, with a hint of respite.

At this time of the day, the customers basically wouldn't buy the hawkers' foods unless they were very hungry. Since the customers were all around, however, the granny likewise wouldn't give up. She just walked around the crowd waiting outside slowly and could occasionally sell out one or two cups of soybean milk.

As soon as it reached the opening time, Yuan Zhou's restaurant was opened on time.

"That's great. The breakfast today is the Steamed Assorted Vegetable Buns, which I didn't manage to eat last time. I can finally savor the taste this time," the customer who first entered the restaurant immediately got to know Yuan Zhou's breakfast and then told others waiting behind him happily.

That started a heated discussion.

"I heard the steamed buns are all with vegetable stuffing. And the vegetables are so fresh and tender that even the water could be pinched out. The taste is so fresh." Those who could not eat it now started to talk about the rumors.

"Please stop it. I was originally hungry and now I become hungrier," another customer said discontentedly.

"This is to increase your appetite. You could definitely eat it with more gusto shortly," that man said in a shameless manner.

"Come on. Even if you say so, it is unlikely that Boss Yuan will

sell an extra steamed bun to me," the customer felt rather speechless.

"That does make sense. If only he had no restriction someday, I will definitely eat 10 at a time," while he was saying, he became more expectant.

"I don't think that can happen. Boss Yuan cooks alone in the restaurant. If there's no restriction, those people will buy 8 or 10 at a time and then we probably couldn't get any." It was beneficial to obey the rules. Customers obviously knew about that after eating here for a long time.

"You are right. Just forget it. Let's work hard for more money and come to eat every day in future and take the restaurant as our canteen, like the small mustache," looking at Wu Hai who entered the restaurant earlier, they said expectantly.

While these customers were discussing the delicious food and getting quite eager to eat it, the hawkers outside the restaurant nevertheless didn't have such a wonderful feeling.

Every time Yuan Zhou served steamed buns, the hawkers who were selling the same food normally had worse business.

After all, the steamed buns prepared by the hawkers were merely for filling the stomach if compared with those made by Yuan Zhou. With such a sharp contrast, who would eat theirs?

"It seems the steamed buns can't be sold out today again," the hawkers selling steamed buns heaved a sigh and then prepared to go somewhere else for business.

"The boss is so frustrating. Since he has such booming business, why can't he leave some opportunities for us small business dealers?" A hawker said with discontent while pushing a handcart on which characters of soybean milk and steamed buns were written.

"You can't say that. The young boss brings about more business to us. Look, our business has been much better than before," the granny happened to be resting at the side. When she heard that, she revealed a disapproving expression on her face and hence said straightforwardly.

"I'm just complaining unintentionally," the hawker was still reluctant to admit that. Now that nobody around chimed in with him, he became silent then after grumbling two sentences.

Since they all met with each other every day for business, it was unnecessary to debate over such small trifles.

Yuan Zhou made only 100 steamed buns every day including several for his own breakfast, therefore only 96 or 97 could be left for sale. As the girls originally can't eat much, a steamed bun and a bowl of Lotus Root Starch were sufficient for each of them. However, for men, they probably could easily eat up two more.

As a result, the business of the hawkers around was really not

bad. In the end, the granny had only 5 steamed buns and 3 cups of soybean milk unsold. Such a result was nevertheless quite satisfactory to the granny.

"Now I get my food for today." Looking at the cold steamed buns that were unsold, the granny didn't really feel worried and still said that with a smile. After all, she could eat them by herself.

Every single day, the granny cooked steamed buns and soybean milk, went to clean the ground and sell the steamed buns and soybean milk. Her schedule was regular and reassuring.

After getting up earlier than earlier each day, Yuan Zhou finally caught the sight of the person who did the cleaning. That achieved what he had wished.

With a sound of "Hua", Yuan Zhou pulled open the curtain at about 4:00, when the granny happened to be cleaning.

Watched quietly by Broth at the door, the granny swept the ground and picked up the trash carefully. The scene was slightly touching under the streetlights.

"She's a hawker doing small business outside my restaurant," with Yuan Zhou's extraordinarily sensitive five senses, he immediately recognized her when he saw the granny's appearance clearly.

She was just one of the hawkers at the door of his restaurant.

Yuan Zhou was a little shocked at the very beginning, but soon he understood. However, he didn't go out and greet the granny, nor did he go to wash and change clothes. Instead, he started to make something in his room.

On the next early morning, a sign was found by the customers who came for the breakfast to be erected at the door of Yuan Zhou's restaurant.

Yuan Zhou's Code: Please Take the Trash Away.

"This is another rule of Boss Yuan," a customer let out a sigh with emotion and then said.

"That's true. Boss Yuan is really like a compass, doing things precisely." This was a complaint.

"It's not too bad, though. I mistakenly thought the sign was asking for leave just now. So scary. It's good that it isn't." This was a customer who had been frightened by Yuan Zhou's various ways of asking for leave.

"With your logic, it stands to reason. The matter of trash is really a trifle." Having considered for a while, they suddenly felt everything was negotiable if Boss Yuan didn't ask for leave.

The granny nevertheless also saw the sign. With a smile revealing on her face, she looked at the inside of the restaurant and muttered to herself, "The young boss is so kind."

Other hawkers who didn't comply with this rule would all be blamed by customers. Anyhow, it was understood deep in everyone's heart that only by conforming to the rules of Yuan Zhou's restaurant could they have a chance to eat the yummy dishes.

As a result, the trash on the ground outside Yuan Zhou's restaurant became less and less. Although the granny still went there to clean every day, she nevertheless felt more relaxed.

Chapter 205: Wu Hai's Persistence

"Boss Yuan, why is there a new sign?" Wu Hai pointed at the sign at the door and asked.

"A new rule," Yuan Zhou gave the same answer to every customer who asked about that.

"Ok. But remember the three days that you have promised me?" Wu Hai came here to urge Yuan Zhou to teach him cooking again.

"Yes. It's available today," thinking of Wu Hai's distinct way of making dishes, Yuan Zhou agreed reluctantly with a headache.

"Last time, the time was too short. So it shouldn't count," Wu Hai was fairly considerate to himself.

"No problem. We are to start formally today. Have you gotten all the ingredients prepared?" Yuan Zhou agreed with a nod.

"The dishes are Chicken with Green Pepper and Watermelon Fruit Mix this time," Wu Hai was a little persistent concerning the unfinished dishes of the previous time.

"Is there any simpler ingredients? These two dishes are too difficult for a beginner," Yuan Zhou said bluntly.

"What about the dish of Sliced Boiled Pork with Garlic Sauce?" To

a carnivorous animal like Wu Hai, simplicity meant simple meat.

"What I mean is the vegetable dish," Yuan Zhou supported the forehead.

"Then you might as well go to check by yourself." After saying that, Wu Hai led the way ahead of Yuan Zhou.

"Ok," Yuan Zhou walked slowly following Wu Hai.

With a sound of "Ka La", Wu Hai unlocked the door with the key. Then, Zheng Jiawei, who was inside, stood up and greeted Yuan Zhou.

"Xiaohai, you are back. Hi, Boss Yuan," Zheng Jiawei went up and carefully looked at Wu Hai up and down and then he said happily.

"Don't urge me to paint. I will learn to cook today," Wu Hai directly blocked Zheng Jiawei's next utterance.

"Are you going to cook again? Xiao Hai, everyone has his own talents. Indeed, Boss Yuan is a head chef. But that doesn't mean you can cook well. You are actually good at painting," when Zheng Jiawei heard Wu Hai intend to cook, he didn't walk away immediately this time, but began to persuade him not to do that.

It was really not easy for Zheng Jiawei, who had been always obeying Wu Hai's word.

"What the hell do you know? Cooking is also a kind of art. As long as it's an art, I must master it," Wu Hai refuted unhappily.

Standing behind him, Yuan Zhou couldn't help having a toothache when he heard Wu Hai say that cooking was an art. He was deeply impressed by the Rainbow Beef Briskets that he had cooked last time.

"Yes, it's also an art. But what about your art show?" Zheng Jiawei pointed at the calendar, on which some characters of "Less than 10 days left before the art show commences" were clearly written.

"Learning to cook can also help me to get inspiration for painting," Wu Hai said indifferently.

"Fine. I'm staying today to accompany you," Zheng Jiawei let out a sigh and said.

"As you please," after Wu Hai said that, he entered the kitchen ahead of others.

"Sorry, Boss Yuan. We have to bother you again. Can I stay?" Zheng Jiawei said with great courtesy and was also considerate in doing things.

"Never mind. Let me first go inside and have a look," Yuan Zhou didn't really care about that.

"Thank you, Boss Yuan. You are really a nice person," while speaking, Zheng Jiawei also entered the kitchen and prepared to help.

He might not be able to help with anything else except taking the coloring materials out.

Yuan Zhou went up to the fridge and checked the ingredients inside. They were very fresh and appeared to be good in quality. Used by Wu Hai to cook, however, the ingredients seemed to be a reckless waste of God's good gifts.

"Let's do this. Let me teach you to cook the Shiitake Mushroom Green Vegetables today," Yuan Zhou eventually found a simpler dish.

Actually, he would prefer to say it was good just to make a boiled egg. He didn't believe that Wu Hai could still make rainbow colors on such a dish. Considering that he had learned the picture composition and color matching from Wu Hai, however, he decided to teach him earnestly.

"Can't you teach me to cook meat dishes?" Wu Hai looked at the various meats in the fridge and asked unwillingly.

"You'd better learn the vegetable dishes to start with," Yuan Zhou said primly.

"Why don't you teach to cook the Egg Fried Rice?" Wu Hai suddenly recalled the God Tier Egg Fried Rice cooked by Yuan Zhou. In his opinion, eggs were also considered to be meat.

"No. It's too difficult for you to master it in three days," Yuan Zhou was never roundabout when he talked with Wu Hai.

"I feel the dish of Shiitake Mushroom Green Vegetables is really good," Zheng Jiawei interrupted, but with a bad expression on his face though. It seemed that he thought of something.

Wu Hai, nevertheless, muttered at the side, "The yellow color of the Egg Fried Rice is so bright. It's better to add some warm yellow coloring materials inside."

The words were easily captured by Yuan Zhou, who was perceptive, without missing any single word. He sighed with relief inwardly and felt rather fortunate for not having chosen the Egg Fried Rice.

That had absolutely nothing to do with cooking. How did he manage to think of that idea?

"You deal with the ingredients first," Yuan Zhou felt Wu Hai was quite professional in processing the ingredients.

"Ok," Wu Hai took the vegetables and shiitake mushroom and started the cleaning work.

In the sound of flowing water of "Hua Hua", Wu Hai drew out some painting brushes from nowhere and began to wash the vegetables with them.

The flat brush was used to clean the fold on the inside of the shiitake mushroom while the other one to brush the root of the vegetables.

Yuan Zhou indicated that he needed to quiet down for a while. Wu Hai undoubtedly appeared quite normal last time when he washed the beef, but why did he look more severe this time?

"Is he always like that?" Yuan Zhou suddenly talked to Zheng Jiawei.

"Yes, Xiaohai is always cooking dishes like that. He believes it's a part of the art and he must complete it by the means of art," Zheng Jiawei had a better tolerance.

"Have you ever tasted his dishes?" Yuan Zhou was quite curious about that.

"Yes. But the consequence was that I went to hospital to wash the stomach. Xiaohai likes using the dyestuff to cook dishes, saying it's beautiful. As for the taste, he was nevertheless very picky," speaking of that experience, Zheng Jiawei still had a lingering fear.

"I got it," Yuan Zhou nodded solemnly. At that time, Wu Hai had gone to the procedure of cutting the vegetables.

"What do you intend to do next?" Yuan Zhou asked Wu Hai.

"The green color of the vegetables doesn't go well with the dark brown of the shiitake mushroom. I want to soak it with light green dyestuff and dye the vegetables before stir-frying," Wu Hai said without turning his head.

Yuan Zhou really felt lucky inwardly that he had asked that beforehand. He then suddenly stopped Wu Hai, "The two colors don't match for now, but they'll match perfectly after stir-frying."

"No. We can't be careless on the matter of color match. Only if the two colors match well now could they match better after cooking," Wu Hai refused Yuan Zhou squarely and then muttered.

"Suddenly I feel sympathetic for Wu Hai's pans. God knows what messy things it eats frequently," Yuan Zhou really couldn't help grumbling.

"It doesn't matter. Just change a new one," Zheng Jiawei stayed quite calm this time. He didn't make the orchid shaped finger, but just clenched the emetic drug in his hand.

After Yuan Zhou talked with Wu Hai for quite a while, Wu Hai still insisted on his opinion, believing the vegetables could only be cooked after the colors were well matched.

"Wu Hai, the dyestuff is really not eatable," Yuan Zhou felt what

he had uttered in the morning was even more than that of one ordinary day.

"No, I don't think so. I'm using the best dyestuff," Wu Hai answered carelessly.

"No matter how good it is, it's still the dyestuff and isn't eatable," Yuan Zhou emphasized.

"On the color match and specific layout, you learn from me," Wu Hai took a look at Yuan Zhou contemptuously.

"But I'm the chef," Yuan Zhou crossed his arms against his chest and said affirmatively.

"You still learn that from me," Wu Hai believed persistently that he was right.

"You switch to cooking Quick Stir-fried Vegetables now," Yuan Zhou said that abruptly.

"Then what shall we do with the shiitake mushroom?" With the subject suddenly diverted, Wu Hai asked blankly.

"Just disregard it. You cook the vegetables only," Yuan Zhou said with an affirmative tone.

Having abandoned the other dish, Wu Hai became more normal.

Without the comparison, there was no necessity of color matching. Yuan Zhou managed to get rid of the threat of the vegetables being dyed.

Concerning cooking the dish with a painting brush, Yuan Zhou indicated that it was unnecessary to amend it but some essential skills, nevertheless, needed to be told.

"Heat the oil in the cold pan. You must make sure to put all the vegetables into the pan at the same time evenly. You can quicken the speed of your hand movement. That way, it will also have a beautiful composition even if the vegetables are stirred in disorder," Yuan Zhou explained in a way that was accepted by Wu Hai, making him awfully satisfied.

The method with which Yuan Zhou taught was probably the individualized teaching. It didn't matter that Wu Hai liked using the painting brush for cooking. Without different vegetables, there was no color match and no harm, either. The worst consequence was merely that the dish wasn't well cooked. However, it wouldn't be fatal at all to eat it. Isn't it true...

Chapter 206: Miraculous Kitchen Knife

"Is that so?" Wu Hai said while pointing at the vegetables in the pan silently.

"You should stir-fry them now." There was an air of despair in Yuan Zhou's tone.

"Oh, yeah, stir-fry," Wu Hai took out the drawing tools and began to turn the vegetables over and over while maintaining the messy profile.

"Actually, you needn't emphasize much on the mess. Even Paul Gauguin didn't convey the messy feeling all along, right?" Yuan Zhou had to search in his mind for an abstractionist painter that was known by him

"Ok," Wu Hai began to make the pan presentation while the hot pan was still emitting a sound of "Zi Zi".

While others made the plate presentation, Wu Hai insisted on making the presentation in the pan.

"The vegetables are scorched," Yuan Zhou pointed at the pan and said calmly.

"Never mind. I can finish the presentation before the dish gets scorched next time," Wu Hai was quite confident.

"But when you move the dish into the plate, it will still be messed up," Yuan Zhou really couldn't get why Wu Hai insisted on making the presentation during cooking since it was supposed to be done after cooking.

"It's good-looking right now," Wu Hai spoke out the reason earnestly.

What Yuan Zhou was thinking right now was whether to use his shoes to smack Wu Hai's face and pull out his mustache.

"Let's cook it again," Yuan Zhou pulled himself together and then said while pointing at the leftover vegetables.

"Ok, sure. But are we still going to stir-fry the vegetables?" Wu Hai looked at the vegetarian dish with contempt.

"Humm. You follow my instructions this time and I guarantee the dish will be artistic," Yuan Zhou said affirmatively.

"Really? Did you say artistic?" Wu Hai looked at Yuan Zhou doubtfully.

"Of course. After all, my dishes are not only edible but also very delicious," Yuan Zhou signaled Wu Hai to dump the dry and yellowish vegetables and then wash the pan.

While saying that, Yuan Zhou stressed on the two words of edible and delicious. Wu Hai, nevertheless, just got obsessed with the art

and apparently didn't hear the difference.

Except during the business hours of his restaurant, Yuan Zhou stayed in Wu Hai's kitchen for the whole day. He had to watch Wu Hai at intervals in case he added pigment into the pan again. Naturally, Yuan Zhou also asked him a question that he felt curious about.

"Wu Hai, vegetables also have different colors and the pigment can be extracted. Why don't you use that?" Yuan Zhou asked him when Wu Hai wanted to add the pigment and adjust the color once again.

"It's watery and is difficult to take shape. Besides, it's not easy to dye the color in it," as a master of oil painting, Wu Hai naturally liked thick and heavy colors and hence said in an obvious tone.

"Ok, I understand now. Let's continue with the next step," Yuan Zhou gave up asking the question and directly moved to the next step.

This whole day let Yuan Zhou understand one thing. It was better not to accept any disciples later as he had run out of all his patience as well as his self-control. Without them, he would have failed in refraining himself from choking Wu Hai to death.

Why did this seemingly normal young man have such a weird way of thinking? Yuan Zhou indicated that he really couldn't understand.

In the evening, Yuan Zhou received a message from Yin Ya whom he hadn't seen for a long time.

Yes, Yuan Zhou added Yin Ya into his contacts in the microblog while Yin Ya did the same to Yuan Zhou.

[Let me recommend to you a restaurant serving tasty beef noodle soup. Boss Yuan, I feel that you should give it a try. It's really very delicious.] from Yin Ya.

[Send me the address.] from I'm Boss Yuan.

After quite a while, Yin Ya sent her reply back, [Boss Yuan, you came online. Long time no see.]

[Humm. Long time no see.] from I'm Boss Yuan.

[Why is Boss Yuan so polite on the internet? Are you a fake or not?] Yin Ya was taking the tablet computer. She just smiled, but didn't give him the address directly.

[No, why?] Yuan Zhou frowned and got a little puzzled. He had always been awfully courteous.

[All right. I won't joke with you anymore. You have no sense of humor. The address is xxx Road xxx Residential Area.] Yin Ya pouted and then sent the address.

[Ok, thank you.] After thinking for a while, Yuan Zhou expressed his gratitude.

[You are welcome. I'm gonna sleep. Good night.] Yin Ya answered him with a good night and put away the tablet before going to sleep.

Yuan Zhou, likewise, answered her the same way and was still thinking of the matter of his politeness.

"Is it because I have acted too aloof?" Yuan Zhou stood up and looked at himself in the mirror.

He suddenly lifted up the hem," Oh, I finally got abdominal muscles."

Seeing the profile of the growing abdominal muscles, Yuan Zhou was thinking how to let others know that he had abdominal muscles now. Anyhow, he was considered to be a good-looking man who cooked well and had abdominal muscles; therefore he should have no problem to get a girlfriend.

However, Yuan Zhou found the abdominal muscles couldn't be exposed to the public. It seemed that he can only wait for those girls to find his intrinsic advantages by themselves. Yuan Zhou was fairly confident about that.

The system displayed, "Host, the reward hasn't been received yet."

Suddenly, the system uttered something in Yuan Zhou's mind after remaining silent for long.

"Is the reward the one for the snack?" Yuan Zhou asked with puzzlement.

The system displayed, "No. The Master Chef Set has been released. This reward yet has a time limit."

[2nd Side Mission] Make an artwork out of sculpting with a full score (completed)

(Mission Tips: As a to-be Master Chef, sculpting with a kitchen knife is a piece of cake. I think highly of you, young man. Move, move.)

[Mission Reward] A piece of the Master Chef Set (Available to be received: please receive the reward within 96 hours)

(Reward Tips: if you can gather all the pieces of the Master Chef Set, you might be able to summon a grand prize.)

"It really has a time limit," Yuan Zhou tapped open the mission and found it was indeed so.

The system displayed, "Host, you can receive it now."

"Receive," Yuan Zhou had traded a part of his culinary skills for this reward. Of course, he would receive it.

The system displayed, "The reward has been released."

Yuan Zhou stood up and went downstairs. His slippers emitted a slight sound of "Dong Dong Dong" while stepping on the stairway.

When he came into the kitchen, an extra kitchen knife had appeared on the knife shelf as expected. As it was quite conspicuous, one could hardly neglect it.

"Is this the mischievous side of the system?" Yuan Zhou pointed at the bow ribbon at the knife handle and felt rather helpless.

The system displayed, "The ribbon can be used to bind the knife handle. Host, you have to finish the work by yourself."

"It's truly the perfect explanation," Yuan Zhou was already used to being speechless by the system's scams. He felt strange even when the system offered him the reward a few days earlier with no reason.

Compared to the system, Wu Hai was merely a little strange.

"Fu*k. I must have been terribly affected by Wu Hai and surprisingly thought of the pigment meal." Yuan Zhou shook his head and tried to forget the horrible meal as soon as possible.

Yuan Zhou went up and untied the bowknot, which was in deep purple color and stain resistant.

"Is this ribbon so good that I have to bind it myself?" Yuan Zhou looked at the wooden knife handle and asked curiously.

The system displayed, "A good knife is a standard equipment of the Master Chef. And the knife handle could influence the sense of touch of the chef towards the knife."

"But I don't know how to bind it. Please provide me with a method," Yuan Zhou took the ribbon helplessly, not knowing how to bind the knife handle.

The system then straightforwardly provided him with quite a few methods, all appearing to be simple and easy to be learned.

"Ok," Yuan Zhou chose the simplest one and then began to bind it according to the method.

The system displayed, "This variety of the ribbon is the gauze type, a kind of ultra-slim silk fabric. With its tactility being like a cold jade, it won't be affected by the temperature of the skin and thus has functions of maintaining the skin moisture and slowing the process of aging."

"Isn't it just a piece of cloth? Fortunately it's not too much," while binding the knife handle, Yuan Zhou sighed with emotion.

He didn't even have time to experiment with the new knife.

"Can you explain the meaning of the Miraculous Kitchen Knife now?" Looking at the ordinary kitchen knife, Yuan Zhou asked with curiosity.

The system displayed, "..."

Chapter 207: Beef Noodle Soup

"What does the Miraculous Kitchen Knife mean?" Yuan Zhou asked while binding the knife handle with the ribbon.

The system displayed, "The knife will have unexpected effects if used along with the Master Chef Set."

"I think you are like the one that sells medicine pills, the kind that cures various diseases," Yuan Zhou grumbled expressionlessly.

The system displayed, "The knife is made of rare elements of vanadium and selenium."

"Wait, wait. Isn't it very difficult for the rare element of vanadium to dissolve? Besides, it doesn't have the ductility if there are impurities, does it?" Yuan Zhou indicated that he was fairly knowledgeable and happened to know about this element.

The system, nevertheless, didn't answer Yuan Zhou's question and continued with its own explanation procedures. The system displayed, "The melting point of the vanadium is very high. It is called the refractory metal. It is hard and has ductility but no magnetic property. Furthermore, It is resistant to hydrochloric acid and sulfuric acid. Moreover, the anti-corrosion property in gas-salt-water is better than that of stainless steel. It doesn't oxidize in the air."

"Vanadium is a kind of silver gray metal. Any impurities will affect its ductility."

"With the multiple outstanding physical and chemical properties, it has a wide range of applications and has enjoyed a reputation as a metal vitamin. Due to its scarcity, it's usually used in the aerospace industry."

"After the system melted the element into the knife, it added the decomposed selenium into the knife before it solidified, giving it the property of selenium."

"Selenium is an antioxidant. It can prevent aging and tissue hardening caused by the oxidation, and at least slow down its pace of deterioration; it has the functions of activating the immune system and precluding cancer, therefore it's an indispensable trace minerals."

"The selenium contained in the knife could satisfy the requirements of humans. The daily supply is 15 ug for infants within 1 year old, 20 ug for kids from 1-3 years old, 40 ug for kids from 4-6 years old and 50 ug for adults."

"It could be absorbed directly from the knife?" Yuan Zhou picked up the knife of which he had just bound the handle and felt rather curious.

The knife had little difference from ordinary knives. Speaking of luster, it wasn't really very bright. But judging from the blade, it was extraordinarily sharp, giving a silver luster under the light of a lamp.

No one was able to tell if it was made from rare metals, let alone it was also creatively added with the selenium element.

The system displayed, "This system has its own way."

"Ho Ho. All right. Then can I use it now?" Yuan Zhou looked at the intact knife handle contentedly, with a great sense of achievement.

The system displayed, "Host, you can use it freely."

Then Yuan Zhou excitedly took the knife and started to look for the ingredients that could reflect the knife blade.

Having turned around for a circle, he didn't find anything suitable. It was, likewise, not the right time to cook dishes now. Yuan Zhou didn't buy any material for sculpting as he always bought fresh ingredients every day. With a sudden inspiration, Yuan Zhou recalled that giant radish. It seemed that he had only to take the advantage of the system.

"System, I think my knife skills need some polishing. What do you think?" Yuan Zhou held the knife with a serious expression.

If the system had intelligence, it would be quite speechless. The scam was so apparent that Yuan Zhou didn't even try to cover it up.

Without any urging, there appeared a giant radish in the kitchen

as expected after quite a while. It was really very big. Even the radish sprouts hung down to the ground and the radish was just a few steps away from supporting the ceiling.

Immediately, Yuan Zhou confirmed one thing. The system basically wouldn't refuse any request concerning the improvement of the culinary skills of the chef, starting from the dishwasher for the first time to the radish now for practicing.

When he had gotten the radish in his hand, Yuan Zhou picked up the Miracle Kitchen Knife and easily cut off the radish sprout with a sound of "Hua".

Yuan Zhou finally felt the difference between this knife and an ordinary knife. This knife weighed much less by half than an ordinary one while the sharpness exceeded the latter one. As the knife handle was bound by himself, it felt rather comfortable.

Yuan Zhou stood on a small stool that was used to pick the Jinling Grass and observed the incision carefully.

The incision was neat without any skewness and completely conformed to his expectation when he had started to cut. The cutting process went on quite smoothly and easily despite the big size of the radish. After Yuan Zhou carefully smelled it, he found there was not any slightest underlying taste of the new knife. No wonder it was the Master Chef Set.

Yuan Zhou nodded with satisfaction. Only then did he wave the knife and start to sculpt the radish.

This time, he was sculpting a phoenix tree that was like a real one rather than a court lady. The radish sprouts were used as ornaments for the green leaves and the root hair at the bottom was clearly seen. Such a small phoenix tree was like a big potted plant that people liked.

"Finally, I could sculpt the tree well," Yuan Zhou let out a breath. Eventually, he could make up for the fault that he had made with the phoenix tree for the first time.

Having straightened out his thinking, Yuan Zhou then tidied the kitchen and went upstairs to wash up and sleep. Of course even with his four inconspicuous abdominal muscles, he still spent quite a while before the big potted plant of a phoenix tree was moved to the courtyard of the pub for decoration.

The Miraculous Kitchen Knife was, indeed, a miracle to whoever used it. So awesome!

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The next morning, Yuan Zhou shut the door immediately after the breakfast time ended. He didn't pull his hand cart this time. Instead, he just took two wooden boxes and then left the restaurant, checking the phone while walking.

The page clearly showed the chat history between Yin Ya and him last night. Yuan Zhou flipped the messages carefully and at last found the address that had been sent to him the day earlier.

He walked to the crossing and hailed a taxi, as usual. After reporting the destination to the taxi driver, he began to close the eyes and rest his mind.

Theoretically, Yuan Zhou had already earned sufficient money to buy a car, but he had never thought of that. To this end, Ling Hong once asked him.

"It seems that you either walk or take a taxi when you go out. Why don't you buy a car?" Ling Hong asked him randomly when he was quite bored.

"If I learn to drive, I might as well study some new dishes during that time span," Yuan Zhou said with a show of seriousness.

"That indeed makes sense," Ling Hong was persuaded by Yuan Zhou with this reason.

Nevertheless, Yuan Zhou truly wouldn't go to learn to drive, nor would he buy a car.

"It's totally 27 RMB," the taxi driver parked the car smoothly and told Yuan Zhou the charge after he pressed the taximeter.

"The amount is just right. Please keep the change," Yuan Zhou gave him a handful of changes and then opened the car door to get off.

Standing in front of the noodle restaurant, Yuan Zhou heaved a sigh and then said while looking at the taxi that was pulling away, "Good service provided and bills cleared."

The noodle restaurant was not large, but the glass door was nevertheless wiped very clean. The cash register was at the door, in front of which were several folding tables. At this time, several people were still eating and talking happily inside and the warm atmosphere looked fairly good.

"The noodles should be delicious." Seeing that all the people appeared happy in the restaurant, Yuan Zhou came to the conclusion before he walked into the restaurant.

The boss was a slim and tall middle-aged man. He wore a gray shirt and black pants, with the hands being really clean and a smile on his face. Seeing Yuan Zhou come into the main hall, he said enthusiastically, "The menu is on the wall. Please check what you like to eat."

"Ok," Yuan Zhou nodded and looked up at the menu.

There was a piece of red oilpaper pasted on the wall. Written on it were several kinds of homely noodles like Beef Noodle Soup and Noodle Soup with Spare Ribs, etc.

"A bowl of specialty Beef Noodle Soup, with coriander, please."

Having ordered the noodles, Yuan Zhou got seated at a table for

four close to the kitchen and took out two wooden boxes from his pocket, preparing to eat the noodles.

Yin Ya's recommendation...

Chapter 208: Business and Taste

"A bowl of specialty Beef Noodle Soup with coriander." The boss carried a big white bowl and walked out of the kitchen.

"Please bring it here," Yuan Zhou stretched out his hand and signaled the boss where his place was.

"Here's your Beef Noodle Soup. Hot pepper and vinegar are all on the table. You can add them as you like. For green onions, ginger and garlic, just feel free to go to the kitchen," the boss said with a generous manner.

"Thank you," Yuan Zhou nodded and took a look at the flavorings on the table.

"Not at all. Just add them as per your favorite taste," the boss waved the hand and then said unconcernedly.

"Humm," Yuan Zhou nodded.

"This boss is interesting," Yuan Zhou murmured in the heart.

The bowl carried to him was quite big. If described specifically, it was even bigger than Yuan Zhou's face. The bowl was designed to have a large mouth and shallow bottom. The noodles appeared to be a lot, but as a matter of fact, they were not little at all.

It was the thin kind of noodles. The brilliant red broth surrounded the noodles while a blast of fragrance and spiciness rushed directly up his nose. As a result, Yuan Zhou couldn't help but want to sneeze.

There were 4 pieces of moderate-sized beef scattered on the noodles as well as the coriander requested by Yuan Zhou, which was dark green and alluring.

"The dish looks fairly nice," with a frown, Yuan Zhou said so.

The words of Yuan Zhou actually meant that the color matching of the noodles was nice. As for the taste, the spiciness and fragrance had completely concealed the intrinsic taste of the noodles.

As it was recommended by Yin Ya, Yuan Zhou didn't dare say it wasn't delicious before he savored it by himself.

Yuan Zhou took out the taste-free chopsticks and picked up the noodles and then immediately stuffed them into his mouth with a sound of "Slurp". Instantly, his mouth cavity was occupied by the spiciness. The noodles, nevertheless, were too soft without any chewiness. There was even a little chili pepper stuck to the noodles, which greatly affected the texture.

The chili pepper had a slightly astringent taste which was not negligible to Yuan Zhou who had sharp taste buds.

With a frown, Yuan Zhou picked up a piece of beef for a taste after considering for a while.

Along with the chewing, the beef emitted the fragrance of the stew ingredients in his mouth and tasted fairly fresh. The strong taste of the coriander also happened to neutralize the underlying offensive smell.

"The beef is not bad," after Yuan Zhou swallowed it, he said in a low voice.

Even so, it didn't deserve to be recommended to him by Yin Ya. While the noodles were ordinary and the beef was a little better, this dish was at most considered to be above average. However, in Yin Ya's evaluation, it was extraordinarily tasty.

While eating it earnestly, Yuan Zhou frowned with puzzlement. Since Yin Ya had eaten his Clear Broth Noodle Soup many times, she normally wouldn't misjudge the current dish. As he really couldn't figure it out, he decided to give up. He might as well have his meal earnestly.

As Yuan Zhou was puzzled about Yin Ya's recommendation at this side, the customers who were having the meal started to crack a joke with the boss at the other side.

"Boss, if I can add whatever I want, can you please add some more noodles? I'm not full," dressed in a vest, a young man said with a smile.

"No problem." The boss agreed squarely, which, nevertheless, made the young man feel embarrassed.

"Please don't, I'm just joking. Just serve me another bowl of Beef Noodle Soup, a small bowl please." The young man immediately stopped the honest and frank boss.

"Never mind. Can you eat another bowl?" A boss doing business as such was rare.

"No problem," the young man answered with a smile.

"Ok. It will be served soon," the boss went back to the kitchen again to cook the noodles.

"Boss, give me some more chopped green onion, please," another customer said so.

"It's over here. You come to get some by yourself," the boss stretched his head out of the kitchen and said.

After that, the customer stood up and entered the kitchen while holding the bowl, as instructed.

"The boss is truly so easy-going," looking at the customer who had walked out after adding the chopped green onion, Yuan Zhou sighed with emotion.

At that time, two people walked into the restaurant from outside. One was a grey-haired man who wore a simple yellow vest and appeared to be of old age. He held with one hand a crutch for the blind, which emitted a clear and melodious sound of "Duk Duk" on the floor.

The one who supported him at the side was a little boy that looked like only 11 or 12 years old. He was neatly covered with a school uniform and had a bowl cut. Although he appeared to be slim and small, the boy, nevertheless, had some strength. He walked into the restaurant step by step while supporting his father.

The small boy found a seat closest to the door and guided his father to sit there. After that, he sat down at the side of his father.

"Here are the noodles." The boss carried a small bowl of noodles out of the kitchen and directly put it down in front of the young man. Then he said mischievously, "I added some more noodles in the bowl."

"Great. Thank you, boss," when the young man saw the noodles were indeed more than average, he said with a smile.

"You are welcome," after the courteous greetings, the boss saw the father and son at the door.

The boss went up with several steps while the small boy stood up and also walked to the boss.

"You are here. What do you eat today?" With an undiminished enthusiasm, the boss said to the boy with a casual tone.

"Boss, two bowls of Beef Noodle Soup, as usual," without thinking, the small boy answered.

"Ok. The total cost is 9 RMB. Please pay before you eat," the boss said with a smile.

"Boss, are you still offering a discount today?" The small boy didn't take out the money right away. Instead, he asked suspiciously.

"Yeah, there's still discount," the expression on the boss's face was fairly natural.

"But won't you lose money that way?" The small boy seemed to be a regular customer here. It sounded like that the boss often offered the discount to him. That was why the small boy became suspicious now and made a detailed inquiry.

"You don't understand. The supermarkets are also selling at a discount frequently. Have you ever seen they go bankrupt? No, right?" The boss said persuasively.

Hearing the answer, the small boy had only to nod the head.

"This is the tactic of small profits and quick returns. Do you understand now? Pay me now." After the boss said that proudly, he

reached out his hand.

The boy was then convinced of the words of the boss, hence took out money from the pocket of his school uniform obediently and counted the right amount before handing it to the boss.

"Yeah, it's the right amount. The noodles will be served soon," the boss received the money and directly put it in his pocket without even counting before he went to cook the noodles.

The scene happened to be captured by Yuan Zhou. Such a cheap trick was apparently for cheating small boys. 4.5 RMB for a bowl of Beef Noodle Soup including the labor cost? With the current level of consumption, the tactic of low profits and quick returns was merely a wonderful dream. If the boss really offered discounts like that, he would probably lose money for every bowl of the noodles.

However, the small boy purely believed in his words. With a relieved smile on his face, he carefully climbed onto the chair and talked with his father. The boss, nevertheless, revealed a smile and appeared not to be thinking of anything else.

"Dad, the noodles here are on sale today. You can eat some more in a moment," the small boy looked up at his father happily.

"Humm. You also eat some more," the father stretched out his hand slowly and stroked the young boy's bowl cut and then nodded with a smile.

The boy didn't mind at all that his bowl cut was messed up by the patting. Instead, he just smiled happily.

While the father and son chatted for a moment like that, the noodles were done. With his sharp eyes, Yuan Zhou easily saw two bowls of Clear Broth Noodle Soup, which had even more noodles than his and, likewise, with 4 pieces of beef in each bowl. It seemed every piece of beef was sturdy.

"Hi, here are the noodles for you two," the boss set down the tray and carried the two bowls to each of them.

"Thank you, Boss," the boy said courteously.

"You are welcome. Go ahead and eat," the boss pointed at the noodle and said.

"Humm," the young boy nodded the head and then turned the head, looking at his father and said, "The noodles are here. Dad, let's eat it now."

"I don't like eating beef. You eat them," the father picked up the pieces of the beef slowly and put them at one side of the bowl.

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Chapter 209: Main Mission

As the father was unable to see, the small boy had to carry the bowl up to receive the beef in case the several pieces fell on the ground unfortunately.

The father placed three pieces of the beef into the boy's bowl and the boy just received them with a smile.

Yuan Zhou had thought there might be a show of the two people modestly declining the beef, but on the contrary, the small boy just received the beef quietly with a smile.

"Dad, you can eat the last piece of the beef for a taste. Uncle Boss cooks the beef pretty good and, moreover, there's a lot," the small boy said that when he saw there was only one piece left in his father's bowl.

"Alright. I will eat the remaining beef," the father agreed with a smile.

While the father and son were eating the noodles quietly, the boy didn't put the beef back into his father's bowl. Although his father couldn't see things, he still had other senses and could perceive things. After careful observation, Yuan Zhou found the beef appeared again in the bottom of the father's bowl when he almost finished the meal. There were exactly 3 pieces, neither more nor less. The beef that had been in the boy's bowl just now, however, was gone.

"So that's it," Yuan Zhou looked at the boss who was chatting smilingly with others at the side and then stood up.

"Take care. Welcome back next time," the boss turned the head and greeted him with some words.

"Ok. Boss, the Beef Noodle Soup is really delicious," Yuan Zhou answered with a nod and said that.

"Of course. Good-bye," the boss received Yuan Zhou's gratitude immodestly.

Having walked out of the restaurant, Yuan Zhou took up the phone and sent a message to Yin Ya through the microblog.

[The Beef Noodle Soup recommended by you is really appetizing. Thank you.] from I'm Boss Yuan.

No answer came from that side. Yin Ya was probably busy with her work.

Yuan Zhou then got a cab and returned to his restaurant soon. As there was only less than half an hour before the business time arrived, he didn't shut the door this time.

Shortly after that, Wu Hai came again and asked with a grudging manner. "Of the three days that you promised me, you only taught me for two days. What about the remaining one day?"

"Say it normally," Yuan Zhou felt uncomfortable with Wu Hai's sorrowful gaze.

"When are you going to teach me for the last day?" Wu Hai appeared a little worried while stroking his small mustache.

"Are you leaving soon?" Yuan Zhou asked with puzzlement.

"Very soon. In just a few days," Wu Hai nodded the head.

"Then this afternoon and the next afternoon can add up to one day," Yuan Zhou checked the time and said that.

"Good," Wu Hai agreed squarely and then started to look at Yuan Zhou up and down.

"Yes?" Yuan Zhou stayed put despite Wu Hai's careful observation.

"Look at this miserable person. Isn't there a serving of the liquor for me tonight? I know there's still one left," Wu Hai said while pointing at the box for the lottery.

"No, you have drawn the lottery once and used up your opportunity," Yuan Zhou refused him squarely.

"Compass!" Wu Hai said indignantly.

Yuan Zhou straightforwardly disregarded his answer as if he hadn't heard him. Not until Wu Hai finished murmuring did he ask, "Have you practiced the vegetable dish?"

"Of course. There's one plate of the dish in the kitchen right now. Do you want to have a taste?" Speaking of his masterpiece, Wu Hai was immediately attracted to another topic.

"Not necessary. You can just carry it downstairs for me to have a look." Once Yuan Zhou thought of the dyestuff, he got an ache in the stomach.

"No problem. You help to check if there's any problem with the dish," after a nod, Wu Hai went back to his art studio to carry the dish downstairs while wearing a pair of slippers that emitted a sound of "Da Da Da".

After Wu Hai had just gone, a man walked into Yuan Zhou's restaurant firmly.

"You are the boss, aren't you? Can I draw the lottery now?" The man said with a fairly clear-cut purpose.

"It's not business hours now," Yuan Zhou raised the head and looked at the man.

After a silence for a second, the man said, "Boss Yuan, you don't seem to have said that only in business hours could the people

draw the lottery."

Then, Yuan Zhou became stuck by the question. He indeed had not made any rules like that.

"Ok. Do it," Yuan Zhou took out the lottery box and put it in front of the man.

"Thank you. Then I'll try my fortune now," the man said with courtesy and revealed a manner of "Friendliness brings wealth."

After that, he reached out his hand into the box and started to draw the lottery. While the table tennis balls were making a continuous sound of "Hua La", the man drew out his hand in a little while and then a red ball appeared on his slender and clean palm.

"The last pot of the bamboo liquor now belongs to you. Come on time tonight, otherwise, I won't wait for you," said Yuan Zhou after he took back the box and ball.

"Thank you. I will come over here on time," the man first listened to Yuan Zhou carefully and then said.

"Humm. Please order dishes when business time arrives. There are still 15 minutes left," when Yuan Zhou saw the man still not leave, he told him.

"Don't worry, Boss Yuan. I'm not ordering dishes and will leave

now," the man looked carefully at the other side of the Sergestes Wall Landscape and then said.

"See you," Yuan Zhou nodded.

Subsequently, the man turned around and walked out. At that time, Wu Hai happened to come downstairs while carrying the vegetable dish and then he murmured suspiciously, "It's surprisingly Fang Heng."

But soon he understood after thinking for a second. It was really not easy for him to endure until now, for which Wu Hai admired him very much, not knowing how the business of his pub was now. In Wu Hai's mind, however, it would surely be affected, but not too much. After all, the customers admitted into Yuan Zhou's pub were far less than those who wanted to drink there.

That was the truth. Otherwise, as the boss of Fang Family Pub, Fang Heng would have gone crazy by now. How was it possible that he spoke with Yuan Zhou so calmly?

"Good wine really deserves a try. I seem to have a good luck today, don't I?" Fang Heng thought while walking.

"Boss Yuan, look. The name of the dish is Full Moon and Grassland. Isn't it felicitous?" Having abandoned the thoughts about Fang Heng, Wu Hai carried the vegetable dish that was well laid out and then handed it to Yuan Zhou.

"Did you give the name?" Yuan Zhou chewed the several words carefully for a while before he understood the twisted name.

"Humm, every painting of mine should have a distinct name." The way that Wu Hai spoke was quite normal.

Not until Yuan Zhou finally saw the painting work did he have an intuitive feeling.

Wu Hai's artistic was definitely undisputed; therefore, the plate presentation was really interesting. Although it looked quite beautiful, Yuan Zhou severely suspected that it wasn't edible.

As Yuan Zhou had always been asking him to stir-fry the vegetable dishes, Wu Hai followed his instructions this time and didn't add any dyestuff or anything weird into the dish. However, he placed a cabbage head in the middle of the dish, making it just stand upright there. Around it were pieces of cabbage leaves that were not curled. While all of them were placed neatly in the plate, the dish indeed looked like a grass field to some extent.

But couldn't he at least blanch the cabbage head first? In this regard, Yuan Zhou indicated that he was unable to bear it.

"Can you just cook the moon first next time?" Yuan Zhou pointed at the cabbage head in the middle.

"I feel that the current color is more natural," Wu Hai had his own considerations.

"Will you eat it?" Yuan Zhou then asked a most practical question.

"Of course not," Wu Hai always took what he felt for granted.

Due to his obsessive-compulsive disorder, Yuan Zhou simply couldn't endure the dish design. The cooked vegetables, surprisingly, were matched with an uncooked cabbage head, which was originally not a vegetable that could be eaten fresh. Apart from that, the leaves were strangely placed like that. As a result, even the cooked vegetables were not likely to be eaten as they would become cold soon.

"What if you go to other places?" Yuan Zhou directly came to the point.

"All right. I got it," Wu Hai hesitated for a second first and decided to change a plate presentation that was edible. Then he returned to his art studio while carrying the plate.

"Hu", while letting out a breath, Yuan Zhou muttered, "It seems this fellow can only eat vegetables like a rabbit when he goes out for now."

Just as he barely finished saying that, the system appeared and revealed its existence.

The system displayed, "A main mission is hereby enabled..."

Chapter 210: A Simple Mission

"Wait, you say a main mission. Can I level up after completing it?" Yuan Zhou interrupted the system and asked directly.

The system displayed, "Yes."

With the increase of the grade, the benefits were noticeable, including for example more money and, of course, more dishes, which was also Yuan Zhou's concern.

The system displayed, "The main mission is hereby released."

[Main Mission] Join the urban gourmet map

(Mission tips: If you want to conquer the stomachs of all people around the world, how can you not win over a simple street? Young man, go to defeat all the stores in this street and conquer the whole street. Certainly, you can't lose the pride of a chef and are not allowed to publicize your restaurant by yourself.)

[Mission reward] Welcoming Set Meal

(Reward tips: As a Master Chef Restaurant, how could you not have something for entertaining the customers?)

Concerning the rule that he can't publicize by himself, Yuan Zhou had already been used to it. What he felt suspicious was the

other aspect.

"I don't think I really understand this mission. What shall I do to join the gourmet map?" Yuan Zhou asked with a dubious tone.

Meanwhile, he started to carefully recall what he already knew. The result was naturally nothing.

The system displayed, "Host, you can check by yourself."

"Again, you tell me nothing. All right, then what exactly is the bloody reward?" To such a veteran like Yuan Zhou, he would merely go with the flow for the mission, but the reward nevertheless had to be made clear beforehand.

The system displayed, "This is the necessary item to entertain the customers. It will be released by the system automatically at that time."

"Pretending to be mysterious," Yuan Zhou was awfully speechless towards the rigidity of the system.

But suddenly he thought of one thing, "System, I still have two chairs that are locked."

The system displayed, "Host is still unqualified to unlock them by now."

"Which level should I reach to unlock them?" Looking at the restaurant with only 10 seats, Yuan Zhou felt slightly speechless.

The system displayed, "Host has to work hard to get promoted."

"Actually, I can buy some tables and chairs by myself, with the condition that you cannot take them away," Yuan Zhou stroked his forehead and suggested sincerely.

The system displayed, "Host doesn't have the permission to add the seats by himself temporarily."

"Ok. Is there any time limit on the mission?" Yuan Zhou sprawled over the azure stone countertop, not caring about his appearance at all.

The system displayed, "No."

"Except for the unknown requirements, the mission does not seem really difficult," Yuan Zhou said thoughtfully.

The system nevertheless no longer replied Yuan Zhou.

"Is Boss Yuan there?" From outside the restaurant passed a vigorous female voice.

"Yes, come on in, please," Yuan Zhou straightened his back instantly and adjusted his expression. In the twinkling of an eye,

the usual aloof appearance was then revealed.

"It's good you are here. There's a good event. Boss Yuan, are you interested in joining in?" It was Director Wang who collected the administrative fee last time. She carried a consistent expression of kindness and friendliness on her face, a characteristic feature of the aunts from the neighborhood committee.

"Please tell me," Yuan Zhou instantly brought the mission of the system to his mind and then asked expectantly.

"The Chengdu gourmet map is going to be modified this year. Every residential district can nominate a candidate for further determination," Director Wang said with a smile.

"Did you recommend my restaurant?" Yuan Zhou just asked calmly with a long face.

"It's not up to me. There are so many restaurants and eateries in the street. But we are preparing to hold a voting activity that will last for three days. Do you have interest in joining in?" Director Wang waved her hand and then told in details why she was here.

"Of course I have the interest. Thank you for your notification, Director Wang." Since the mission couldn't be accomplished straightforwardly, Yuan Zhou was a little disappointed. However, there was definitely no suspense since he could also win by the means of voting. Therefore, it was acceptable for him.

"You are welcome. Your business is so prosperous every day so you'll probably be chosen. It is likewise the pride of our street," Director Wang smiled and conveniently praised Yuan Zhou.

Indeed. Since Yuan Zhou's restaurant was opened, it brought about a good flow of people and more customer visits. That was also a moderate contribution to the street. Therefore, Director Wang thought highly of Yuan Zhou, who in her opinion was a man of ideas and craftsmanship and, furthermore, was young.

"Humm, I will continue to work hard," Yuan Zhou guaranteed seriously.

"Don't be so serious. Ok, let me register your information," Director Wang took out a chart and handed it to Yuan Zhou.

"Ok. So you write or I fill in the blanks by myself?" Yuan Zhou looked at the chart and asked.

"Let me write. That way, the handwriting is the same and the information is easier to record. Tell me the name of your restaurant," Director Wang picked up the pen and waited for Yuan Zhou to tell her.

"The name is Master Chef Restaurant," after Yuan Zhou told her the name, Director Wang wrote it immediately.

"Good. Now I'm leaving for the next one," when she finished, she put down the pen and left smilingly.

"It seems to be the turning point of the mission. However, it's really a simple mission," Yuan Zhou let out a sigh of relief and carried a conspicuous smile on his face.

Nevertheless, he still needed to work hard. While thinking of that, Yuan Zhou took out the phone and began to make calls, preparing to print some Direct Mail advertisement paper. Of course he wouldn't publicize his restaurant by himself. It was just to tell the customers about the activity, not for the publicity of his restaurant.

While making the calls, Yuan Zhou thought that proudly.

While Yuan Zhou was busy with accomplishing his mission at the side, Fang Heng was also earnestly preparing to come and savor Yuan Zhou's Bamboo Liquor. For that, he especially took a wine pot inside of which 150ml of ten-year-old wine was filled. He intended to make a comparison between his wine and Yuan Zhou's. Naturally, the dishes with wine were also required.

"Prepare a little spiced corned beef, vinegar peanuts, and some pickled kelps for me to take away," Fang Heng stopped an attendant and told him the dishes before waiting in the main hall.

Right now, the business of the Fang Family Pub was fairly good. It merely lacked the visit of some drunkards and the heated atmosphere of drinking.

"Boss, they are all well packed and the amount is for two people."

The attendant went up and handed Fang Heng a packed paper bag, inside of which several brown coarse porcelain bowls were laid neatly.

"Humm, that's good," Fang Heng looked at the bag and nodded. Then, he took the stuff and walked out.

On the way, the ten-year-old wine sloshed lightly against the wine pot and emitted a clear and melodious sound of "Pa Pa".

It was not far from Fang Family Pub to Yuan Zhou's restaurant. Fang Heng didn't drive there, but took a taxi as he would be drinking the wine later. Traffic rules had to be strictly followed.

It took no more than 20 minutes to get the street cross by taxi. When he paid for the fare and got off, it was 20:45, "The time is just right."

Fang Heng nodded with satisfaction. While taking the dishes with one hand, he touched the wine pot with the other and then walked to Yuan Zhou's restaurant in big strides.

On the way there, he happened to encounter some regular customers of his own pub. They also seemed to head for Yuan Zhou's restaurant.

"Boss Fang, why are you here at this period of the day?" His regular customers were several people including Chen Wei, who greeted him when he saw Fang Heng.

"I also come to try the good wine, for improvements of mine," Fang Heng said frankly. On his face was honesty and straightforwardness.

"Boss Fang is so broad-minded. But frankly speaking, Boss Yuan's wine was truly wonderful. I can't even describe it in words," Chen Wei said while laughing when he captured no reluctance on Fang Heng's face.

"There's always a mountain higher still. Never too old to learn," Fang Heng also answered with a smile.

"Let's drink some wine together in a moment. But you can't grab my wine," Chen Wei and Fang Heng had drunk together for a few times, thus he began to joke with Fang Heng.

"Don't worry, I won't. I'm not addicted to drinking. I'm here just to savor the wine," Fang Heng said indifferently.

"That'll be perfect," Chen Wei and Fang Heng talked and joked all way long. Just in a little while, they walked to Yuan Zhou's restaurant.

Chapter 211: Landmark Restaurant

"Come, let's go inside together." While speaking, Chen Wei entered the restaurant with Dong Dong and Fang Heng.

"Sure," Fang Heng agreed readily. Thus, the three of them walked into the restaurant together.

"Chen Wei, you come again with your brothers," as soon as they entered the restaurant, they encountered Zheng Xian who had once won everyone's wine.

"It's you again?" Chen Wei felt a toothache while looking at her.

"I have a good luck. See? You are also here," Zheng Xian wasn't really angry. She just looked at Chen Wei up and down with a smile.

"I'm not playing games with you today," Chen Wei took a step back alertly and then said firmly.

"That's okay. I don't expect you to play," Zheng Xian accepted and then said.

"Hi, everyone. The business hours of the pub begin now. This way, please," Yuan Zhou interrupted their conversation duly and, consequently, alleviated the embarrassing atmosphere.

Yuan Zhou went up and pushed open the sergestes wall, revealing an arched door. Inside of the door was exactly the small garden of the pub, where the breeze carried along some light fragrance. It was very pleasant.

"Even the door is so exquisite," Zheng Xian said mildly.

"Yeah, so it is. Even an adult man like me feels it's beautiful," Chen Wei likewise nodded.

"It's merely a little small," the tall and strong person Dong Dong entered the door while bending over and then grumbled.

"It's indeed creative and original." As Fang Heng came here for the first time, he was a little surprised. Surroundings were one thing, the quality of the wine was nevertheless also very important; hence, he was looking forward to the taste of the wine even more.

As soon as they passed through the door, a breeze blew towards them from the small garden. The two showy radish sculptures were quite conspicuous in the courtyard.

Under the moonlight, the court lady really looked like a beauty from the moon palace with flesh of ice and bones of jade, appearing quite holy.

The jade white branches of the phoenix tree at the side were as warm as jade. Each of the two sculptures brought out the best in

one another.

"This must be the new works of Boss Yuan. It's truly vivid and lively." Zheng Xian went up and carefully observed the radish sculptures, finding such big sculptures surprisingly had no defects at all.

"Thank you for your compliment," Yuan Zhou thanked her with a serious manner.

"Boss Yuan, do you have any plans to sell them?" Zheng Xian liked these kinds of beautiful objects very much.

"No. This way to the second floor," Yuan Zhou shook his head and then pointed to the ground floor of the well-lit pub.

"What a pity!" Zheng Xian was unwilling to accept his answer. However, when she realized Yuan Zhou had never thought of selling it, she gave up.

"Do you think it's worth it to buy merely a big radish that can't be eaten?" Chen Wei couldn't help grumbling when he saw the expression of pity on the face of Zheng Xian.

"Humans have the right to appreciate the beauty. But I have once seen an interesting scene where a monkey picks a wildflower and gulps it down," Zheng Xian took a glance at Chen Wei and then uttered something totally irrelevant.

"I have even seen a seagull catch fish and eat it. What does yours count for?" When Chen Wei didn't say anything, Dong Dong nevertheless showed off his experience with a complacent manner.

"Stupid," having understood what Zheng Xian meant, Chen Wei dragged Dong Dong upstairs.

Zheng Xian said nothing more after a smile. The several people arrived at the second floor smoothly and then got their seats, waiting there for Yuan Zhou to take the wine to them.

"Boss Yuan, this place is so elegant. It's awfully tasteful to drink the bamboo liquor in the bamboo forest," Fang Heng looked around for a circle and then said with a smile.

"Thank you. Here's your liquor," Yuan Zhou carried a pot of liquor and a cup to him.

"You are welcome. Such refreshing and mellow scent." With merely a smell, Fang Heng knew it was good wine, hence straightforwardly praised.

He opened the wine pot and immediately poured out a cup of the liquor impatiently.

The color was like the amber and its transparency and fragrance needn't be mentioned especially. The wine didn't overflow although it filled the cup. Undoubtedly, it was good wine.

"Good wine," Fang Heng couldn't help but praise. Having carried up the cup and gulped the liquor down, he shut his mouth tight and spoke no more in case the fragrance leaked out.

When the bamboo liquor entered the throat, a blast of refreshing fragrance rushed into his throat first and then directly into his stomach. Only then did the taste of the liquor rise up. It was incomparably refreshing with a hint of spiciness and smoothness, like the sweet and throat-soothing pear juice being swallowed slowly into his stomach.

Not until all the taste of the liquor was fully absorbed did Fang Heng open the mouth to reminisce the aftertaste and say, "It's undoubtedly old wine. The taste is sweet and fragrant as well. As expected of bamboo liquor."

"How do you like it? Is it delicious?" Chen Wei carried up the wine cup and said proudly.

"It is indeed good wine that comes once in a blue moon. Great," Fang Heng nodded and was convinced of that. Even the ten-year-old wine tied at the waist couldn't be compared with this one for half of the taste. Fortunately, he didn't take it out to show off.

"Boss Yuan has really a good craftsmanship," looking at Yuan Zhou who was sitting in the distance, Fang Heng said with a sigh.

"Truly so," Chen Wei chimed in with him while sipping the tasty wine.

"It's so boring to drink liquor only. Let's play a game, shall we?" Zheng Xian took up the wine pot and said with a smiling face.

"Don't count me in," Chen Wei refused squarely with a loud voice.

"I want to have a try," Fang Heng revealed an expression of interest.

"Well, you are done then," a look of sympathy appeared on the solemn face of Chen Wei.

Last time, Chen Wei lost the game utterly. In the end, all his remaining liquor was basically drunk by Zheng Xian and he almost cried due to the loss. This time, he would never be fooled again no matter what she said. However, Chen Wei had a feeling of both sympathy and glee when he saw Fang Heng intend to play. It seemed that another person would be fooled again.

"How is it possible? An invitation from a beauty to play a game is not a problem for me," Fang Heng regarded himself as a man of noble character and naturally acted decently.

"This gentleman is so courteous. Let's just play a simple game. Whoever loses the game has to spare half a cup of the liquor to the winner, ok?" Zheng Xian asked softly with a cup being held in her hand.

"No problem. You tell me the rules," Fang Heng made a gesture of

"Go ahead".

"In ancient times, it's basically the celebrities who love to drink the bamboo liquor. This time, let's also follow suit and poetize for the wine. Of course, the time to think should be less than 10 seconds," Zheng Xian rolled her eyes and proposed randomly.

"Tsk-task. Again, it's the same trick," Chen Wei, and his brother Dong Dong, just drank the liquor quietly at the side.

"Ok. Let's start with me and you follow. 'Among the flowers was a pot of liquor while I drink alone without any company'," Fang Heng uttered a poem with readiness.

The following plot was undoubtedly easy to guess. No matter how many verses Fang Heng uttered, Zheng Xian would follow quickly, without even one second to think. Even Fang Heng who had believed he himself to be literate was likewise defeated. And naturally, his remaining liquor was taken over by Zheng Xian. Only then did Fang Heng get to know why Chen Wei had refused the proposal at the beginning.

Yuan Zhou's pub at night was harmonious as such.

Nowadays, Yuan Zhou's small restaurant was quite well-known in the neighborhood. Even those who had never been here also knew about this place.

For example, the elite who was making a call, "I'm at the Taoxi

Road. Pardon, you don't know? It's where Yuan Zhou's small restaurant is seated. The restaurant serves delicious dishes."

The person at the other end of the phone probably thought they would have the meal in Yuan Zhou's small restaurant and hence became quite thrilled. The excited voice was clearly heard even on this side of the phone, "You gotta go there to treat me a meal. Don't worry. I will be there in 10 minutes."

"That's really a terrific idea. But unfortunately, it is not there. It's the restaurant next door. Hurry up," the elite refused squarely. What a joke! Even he himself hadn't been there yet.

The other person didn't seem to give up the hope and was still striving for the target. However, the elite just kept saying "No, no, no" to refuse.

Judging in this way, Yuan Zhou was right. Whoever got the most votes won out. It was apparently very easy to accomplish the mission given by the system?

However, was the system likely to release such a simple mission?

Chapter 212: Loophole

On the next early morning, the advertising material store sent the DM advertising pamphlets ordered by Yuan Zhou to his restaurant.

"Hello, boss. These are the advertising pamphlets that you have ordered," wearing a peaked cap, the staff of the store took out a thick stack.

"Sorry to bother you," Yuan Zhou nodded the head and received them.

"That's all right. It's a total of 150 RMB," the staff pointed at the pamphlets and then said.

"One moment, please," carrying the materials, Yuan Zhou walked back to the kitchen and then took out 150 RMB from the drawer and handed them to the staff.

"Thank you. I'm leaving now. Bye," the staff of the store received the money and left the restaurant after checking the authenticity of the notes.

Yuan Zhou picked up an advertising pamphlet and checked it carefully. It was designed elegantly, therefore Yuan Zhou nodded the head contentedly, "Nice work."

The business time for lunch arrived after a while and the

customers waiting outside started to enter the restaurant one after another.

"Boss Yuan, a serving of Translucent Beef Slices and a bowl of white rice." The customer who entered the first ordered his dishes immediately.

Other customers behind him also started to order their dishes. It was a scene of bustle and prosperity in Yuan Zhou's restaurant.

People were hungry during lunchtime at noon and hence busied themselves enjoying the delicacies. Therefore, no one noticed the advertising pamphlets that Yuan Zhou had put at a conspicuous place. It was Mu Xiaoyun who noticed them first.

"Boss, what's this?" Mu Xiaoyun took up a pamphlet.

"An activity," Yuan Zhou said concisely.

"Award Contest for Gourmet Map?" Taking the pamphlet, Mu Xiaoyun read out the conspicuous characters on it.

"Boss, are we going to take part in the contest?" Mu Xiaoyun looked at Yuan Zhou excitedly.

It was known that the gourmet map of Chengdu was reputable all over the country. Almost everyone that came for tourism would have one in the hand as a guide. Despite the uncertainty if the restaurant would be chosen, it was nevertheless a semi-official

grand advertisement with the major advantage of it being free of charge.

Yuan Zhou neither nodded the head to admit nor denied Mu Xiaoyun's question. After all, the system mercilessly didn't allow him to publicize himself.

There was a saying that "The one who understands you most is usually the one who hates you the most, rather than the one who loves you.

Though Ling Hong didn't hate Yuan Zhou, he didn't like him, either. If it wasn't that Yuan Zhou really cooked well, he would have already beaten up this expressionless guy. Therefore, once he saw Yuan Zhou's reaction, he knew this guy was pretending to be deep again.

"No need to ask him. Your boss has surely taken part in that contest. Otherwise, where did the pamphlet come from?" Ling Hong took a sip of the watermelon juice and said comfortably.

"Gee? That's great. No wonder that my boss cooks so well but the restaurant isn't on the gourmet map. So that's the reason," Mu Xiaoyun was suddenly enlightened and then said.

"Well, so they choose by voting. Boss Yuan, do you need my vote?" Ling Hong began to ask Yuan Zhou with great interest.

"It's a fair contest," Yuan Zhou said primly.

"No one denies that. If you say yes, I will vote for you. If not, I think the neighboring noodle restaurant is also nice," Ling Hong tried to force Yuan Zhou to say yes.

"If you believe the noodle restaurant cooks better, you naturally can choose them," Yuan Zhou nevertheless revealed a manner of calmness and indifference.

In his heart, however, he had already sculpted Ling Hong into a flower with his gorgeous knife skills. However, he would never make the thought appear on his face.

"Boss Yuan is still so dishonest. Although you say no, you nevertheless act the opposite. You won't be able to get a girlfriend that way," Ling Hong shook his head and sighed, directly pointing out Yuan Zhou's pain of having no girlfriend.

"I don't need to chase after girls by myself. Girls will chase after me. Besides, I have never seen you with any," Yuan Zhou said with great confidence.

"I have many girlfriends. Which one do you want to see?" Ling Hong answered uncaringly.

"I have no interest in that," Yuan Zhou refused him flatly.

"Ok, all right. Anyhow, there would be benefits if you can be chosen. My vote goes to you," Ling Hong picked up a pamphlet and

walked out of the restaurant while waving his hand.

"Don't worry, Boss Yuan. Our votes are also for you," the customers surrounding also took up the pamphlets and then start to pledge after they had finished their meals.

"Thank you," Yuan Zhou thanked them after a nod.

"Don't mention it, Boss Yuan. If only you can let me eat two Soup Dumplings or Steamed Assorted Vegetable Buns for one meal one day," the customers said with a smile.

"Humm, we can talk about that later," Yuan Zhou didn't refuse them directly.

"And the Duck Oil Sesame Seed Cake," said a customer who had profound love for the snack.

Although one serving for each dish couldn't fill their stomach at noon and in the evening, they could at least order some other dishes, which were also delicious to the extreme."

After the current ten customers finished their meal, there came another ten. As a result, Yuan Zhou felt more assured.

Because Mu Xiaoyun became a publicist voluntarily.

"Uncle, this restaurant is going to take part in this activity. Please

remember to vote for us," Mu Xiaoyun took the pamphlets and immediately went to publicize the restaurant when the customers finished ordering their dishes.

There were also customers who liked joking.

"Boss Yuan, are you going to join the activity?" a customer asked curiously.

Yuan Zhou's reaction was... NO REACTION. After all, he could neither say yes nor say no, thus he might as well prepare the dishes attentively.

"Xiaoyun, see? Your boss isn't saying he will attend the activity? How do you know that?" The customer bent down to joke with Mu Xiaoyun when they found no response from Yuan Zhou.

However, Mu Xiaoyun was also a clever and smart girl. She rolled her eyes and then got close to that customer. Then she said with a show of seriousness, "My boss is ashamed of saying that, so I am helping him to tell you."

"Ha Ha. Xiaoyun, you are so lovely. For the sake of you, I decide to vote for your restaurant," the customers laughed and then said readily.

These were merely tiny interludes. What attracted the vote most was actually the awfully delicious dishes and the disgusting rules of Yuan Zhou's restaurant. After all, any of the customers was

likely not to get their turn even after they waited for long for breakfast, lunch, and dinner.

Once the restaurant was chosen, there would be more people suffering with them, which let them cheer up.

Time passed quickly. In a twinkling of an eye, the deadline for voting arrived.

In these several days, many people said they would go to vote consciously, but they all appeared a little strange when they came back.

At the middle of the breakfast time, Man Man asked Yuan Zhou straightforwardly, "Boss Yuan, didn't you take part in this activity? We all didn't find the name of your restaurant."

"Did your dessert shop also join in the activity?" Yuan Zhou was a little surprised but he still asked back, without showing his feelings.

"Of course. Director Wang wrote my store name on the chart," Man Man nodded her head affirmatively.

Then Yuan Zhou got puzzled. Without saying anything, he prepared to go to the administrative office where the voting took place directly to have a look.

As soon as the breakfast time ended, he set out.

The administrative office was not far from here. It took only ten minutes to get there on foot, thus Yuan Zhou diligently walked there instead of taking a cab.

He bumped into Director Wang once he entered the office.

"Boss Yuan, I'm about to go and look for you. Didn't you tell others that you took part in the activity? Why is there nobody who votes for you," Director Wang spoke a long sentence quickly with concern.

Director Wang had originally been optimistic about Yuan Zhou's restaurant as it indeed deserved the reputation. Even when the activity almost ended, however, not a single person voted for Master Chef Restaurant.

"Yes, I told them. Are there any other exceptions?" Yuan Zhou frowned.

"Oh, yeah. Your words have really reminded me. Those who came to vote all mentioned that they would vote for Yuan Zhou's restaurant. But there's no restaurant with this name on the street, so we have to count them as wasted votes," When Director Wang looked at Yuan Zhou's expression after she explained, she immediately understood.

"That restaurant is yours?" It turned out that Director Wang truly didn't know the full name of Yuan Zhou.

"Yes. Can you add those wasted votes on my name?" Yuan Zhou nodded the head and said seriously.

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Chapter 213: Welcoming Set Meal

"So it's really yours. Well, this situation is a little tough." Director Wang revealed a manner of regret.

"What's the matter, Sister Wang?" While they were talking at the door, they attracted the attention of the whole office. Not long after, a seemingly younger woman stood up and asked.

"Have you already nullified those votes for Yuan Zhou's restaurant?" Director Wang went up and asked her as soon as she saw the woman.

"The votes of the first two days have all been nullified. Only those of this morning are left. I will do it right away," the young woman had thought Director Wang blamed her for doing the work slowly and then said affirmatively.

"That's a mistake. Those votes for Yuan Zhou's restaurant are actually all for this Boss Yuan. It's him who brings about the prosperous business in this street," Director Wang said at once.

"But I have already processed all the previous votes," the young woman said with a manner of anxiety.

"Then please recover the wasted votes as many as you can," Director Wang said decisively.

Yuan Zhou just stood at the side and waited for them to deal with

that.

"Let me try how many I can recover," the young woman considered for a while.

"Boss Yuan, I'm so sorry. With the current condition, you are not likely to be chosen, but I promise to get you onto the gourmet map next year," as a matter of fact, Director Wang still thought highly of Yuan Zhou's restaurant. If it was another people, she would definitely not talk to him so politely and moreover promised him. What does it have anything to do with her since he wrote the store name wrongly by himself?

"Never mind. I still want to have a try. Who is the first for now?" Yuan Zhou felt he wouldn't necessarily lose even now.

"The first one for now is the fast food restaurant," Director Wang flipped his notebook and then said.

"How many votes are there for him?" Yuan Zhou asked.

"Right now the number is 812," Director Wang showed an ashamed expression.

"Then how many is mine?" Yuan Zhou looked at the young woman and asked.

"Roughly, there are about 100 votes," the young woman answered conveniently.

"It should be enough. I'm leaving now," Yuan Zhou nodded his head and parted ways with them.

On the way back, Yuan Zhou was always thinking how to let those people go and vote. In a moment, he saw Mu Xiaoyun.

Then he got a good idea and directly went up to Mu Xiaoyun.

"Xiaoyun."

"Boss, why are you here?" Mu Xiaoyun just came out to buy something. Never did she expect to bump into Yuan Zhou and thus was a little surprised.

"I came over to the administrative office to check the voting," Yuan Zhou said honestly.

"What's the result? Boss, are we the first?" Mu Xiaoyun was so excited that her face turned red.

"No, we have the least votes," Yuan Zhou said with a plain tone.

"That's impossible. We have always so good business," Mu Xiaoyun looked at Yuan Zhou again and again, hoping Yuan Zhou was merely joking with her.

"Yes, it's true. We are the last," Yuan Zhou said affirmatively.

"How did that happen?" Mu Xiaoyun stayed put and stopped walking forward.

"Boss, let me go to the office to see what happened," although Yuan Zhou had just walked out of the office, she still intended to go there in person to check if those staff had made a mistake.

She knew many customers had gone to vote for Yuan Zhou. How was it possible that somebody could create better dishes than Yuan Zhou?

Since Mu Xiaoyun went to check the result, Yuan Zhou was a little relieved. The system had never told him the consequence of the unfinished mission but Yuan Zhou didn't want to try that.

After Mu Xiaoyun went to the office and got to know the reason, she felt rather speechless and had to send the information in the Wechat group. Consequently, she made a splash in the group leading all the members to become speechless.

Yuan Zhou was immediately questioned at noon during lunch time.

"Boss Yuan, tell us why is this restaurant called Master Chef Restaurant?" Man Man looked at Yuan Zhou with suspicion.

"Humm, it's always been this name," Yuan Zhou said with certainty.

"Ho Ho. You don't even have a shop sign. How can you say that?" Man Man really couldn't help grumbling.

"I will have a shop sign later," towards the matter of having no shop sign and being cheated by the system, Yuan Zhou indicated that he was also helpless.

"All right. Luckily, I organized some other people to vote for you. Otherwise, you can guess what will happen," Man Man snorted twice to express her dissatisfaction.

"Thank you," Yuan Zhou said with a very sincere tone.

"It's so rare. Boss Yuan surprisingly gave thanks." Man Man stared at Yuan Zhou directly.

"You are welcome," Yuan Zhou had originally intended to answer his own question, but Man Man managed to get in a reply first. Only after Man Man finished talking did he say it.

"Yuan Zhou is, as expected, still a Compass," said Man Man who felt rather speechless.

"Yes," Yuan Zhou admitted with a nod. He felt the designation of Compass sounded better than the PI whose pronunciation for the first two characters was the same as Yuan Zhou's name in Chinese.

While Man Man was chatting with Yuan Zhou, other customers likewise understood that it was Boss Yuan himself who screwed this matter up.

"It seems that we have to go to the street administrative office again," a regular customer said.

"Yeah, we have to. Without a shop sign, I have thought the name was just Yuan Zhou's restaurant," another customer followed.

"Forget it. Let's go to vote again after the meal," an acquainted customer said that while ordering dishes.

After that, Mu Xiaoyun started to explain to every customer that went there for meals that the Master Chef Restaurant was the name of Boss Yuan's restaurant, carefully and dutifully.

During the spare time, Yuan Zhou began to enquire the system.

"System, did you do this on purpose? If not for someone accidentally finding the problem and telling me, I will have definitely failed in completing the mission," having been scammed for several times, Yuan Zhou asked with discontent.

The system displayed, "Host, please take this as a warning and endeavor to complete the mission."

"Fu*k the warning. This is definitely an open scam," If the system was a physical being, Yuan Zhou really couldn't guarantee if he

would beat it half dead.

Every time Yuan Zhou said that the system was a scam, it just disappeared straightforwardly.

"Scam piece of... ," Yuan Zhou uttered in a low voice.

Such harmless bad words meant nothing to the system. As to whether the missions would become more deceptive, Yuan Zhou would have to rely on his luck for that.

The deadline for the voting for the activity of gourmet map was 6:00 p.m. on the day when the administrative office closed. Since they knew Master Chef Restaurant was the name of Yuan Zhou's restaurant, however, those customers went there again to vote one after another.

It was fairly wonderful to come for the delicacies and go for a stroll to the street administrative office after they finished the meal, which could help them with the digestion.

"One for Master Chef Restaurant," the young woman counted the number while reporting the vote.

"Still the Master Chef Restaurant," it was clearly seen that the young woman had already been numb.

When she saw people come to vote for Master Chef Restaurant on the last day at the very beginning, she could yet accept it despite a

little surprise. However, during the remaining time, the young woman truly felt that there was a cramp on her hand due to the continuous work at the keyboard of the computer.

Luckily, 6:00 p.m. was the time to get off work. The woman let out a breath of relief. After she counted the number, Yuan Zhou really was the first. There was no suspense at all now.

Even with the help of Director Wang, the young woman still busied about for a whole day before finishing recording the votes at last. Naturally, they would calculate the votes again if somebody else came to vote. Otherwise, it would be more tiring. Only then did the staff in the office feel lucky.

"Boss Yuan has surprisingly such overwhelming public appeal. The votes for him in a single day are much more than those for others in three days," Director Wang looked at the votes for Yuan Zhou that outnumbered those for others and revealed a smile on her face.

"There are even lots of wasted votes for him that haven't been included," being busy with making a chart, the young woman said without raising her head.

"So it is. His craftsmanship is really terrific," Director Wang sighed with emotion and then said.

Once the result came out, Yuan Zhou received the message. This message receiver worked faster than any other communication equipment.

The system displayed, "The main mission has been accomplished. The reward is hereby released and is available to be received."

Chapter 214: Standard Set Meal

The message was sent by the system when the dinner hours had just ended and Mu Xiaoyun was still there in the restaurant. Therefore, Yuan Zhou waited patiently to receive the reward later.

"Boss, I'm hundred percent sure that we can win," after Mu Xiaoyun saw all customers off, she said confidently.

"Well, thank you very much," Yuan Zhou nodded the head.

"You are welcome. It's just what I ought to do, boss," Mu Xiaoyun felt, on the contrary, a little embarrassed when she saw Yuan Zhou so courteous.

"This is what you deserve. Tomorrow morning, I will leave a Duck Oil Sesame Seed Cake for you. Come five minutes earlier than usual," Yuan Zhou wasn't asking her. He was just telling her his decision.

"No need. I want to eat the cakes with my brother later," Mu Xiaoyun waved her hand and refused.

"It's on me this time. So five minutes earlier than usual tomorrow," after saying that, Yuan Zhou walked out of the kitchen, as if to see her off.

"Thank you, boss," Mu Xiaoyun had intended to refuse again but when she saw Yuan Zhou's earnest manner, the refusal became

"thank you".

"Humm, take care on the way back," Yuan Zhou nodded the head and shut the door following a sound of "Hua La" after Mu Xiaoyun walked out of the restaurant.

Since the customers for the liquor hadn't arrived, Yuan Zhou had half an hour to prepare.

After Mu Xiaoyun worked in the restaurant for so long, Yuan Zhou found that she wanted to taste every dish, but loved the Duck Oil Sesame Seed Oil most. He got to know that due to the noticeable sound emitted when she swallowed her saliva. Therefore, Yuan Zhou decided to treat Mu Xiaoyun to a piece of the Duck Oil Sesame Seed Oil. Naturally, he would pay for that.

This mission was only completed with the significant help of Mu Xiaoyun who publicized diligently. This remuneration was already planned earlier by Yuan Zhou. He wasn't a person who liked to be in debt.

When all the customers left and the door was shut, he was left alone. Only then did he tap open the mission.

[Main Mission] Join the urban gourmet map (completed)

(Mission tips: If you want to conquer the stomachs of all people around the world, how can you not win over a simple street? Young man, go to defeat all the stores in this street and conquer

the whole street. Certainly, you can't lose the pride of a chef and are not allowed to publicize your restaurant by yourself.)

[Mission reward] Welcoming Set Meal (available to be received)

(Reward tips: As a Master Chef Restaurant, how could you not have something for entertaining the customers?)

"Receive," Yuan Zhou read silently.

He was also fairly curious about the welcoming set meal.

After a while, he seemed to find no changes at all around him.

"Strange. Where did the reward go?" Yuan Zhou began to walk around in the kitchen.

For such trifles, Yuan Zhou would never ask the system. It was fun to look for things, under the precondition that the things were within the small scope that he knew about.

After walking around for a circle, Yuan Zhou found an extra label, which had "Welcoming Set Meal" characters written, on one of the cabinets.

"Wow, it's over here," Yuan Zhou took a look at the cabinet.

He opened the door of the cabinet that appeared fairly big and then the stuff inside came into view.

"Is this the Welcoming Set Meal?" On Yuan Zhou's face was an expression of surprise and suspicion.

Inside the cabinet were plates. On the big grass-green plates, a seemingly ordinary glass cup, a piece of neatly-stacked napkins, and two small round balls wrapped in wafer paper were placed.

Yuan Zhou thought in his mind that they should be candies.

"Is this the so-called Welcoming Set Meal?" Yuan Zhou felt the system must be joking with him.

The system displayed, "Host, the dishes could be placed on the vacant space of the plates. For the Welcoming Set Meal, it's one serving for each customer and is not available for breakfast. Moreover, it can't be sold separately."

"Again, it's in the form similar to the Egg Fried Rice Set?" Yuan Zhou nodded his head thoughtfully.

The system displayed, "The price has been formulated and will be available tomorrow."

"All right. Ironically, you said formerly that no water would be provided, yet, now provides one cup for each customer. Is the water the same as what I drink?" Yuan Zhou took out a set of the

Welcoming Set Meal and picked up the glass water to take a look.

The system displayed, "It's different."

"The water is the clean rainwater directly bottled on a rainy day in Tasmania. Seated 240km away to the south of Victoria State and separated by the Bass Strait from the mainland, this place is the only island state of the Australian Federation. The scenery there is beautiful and the water is clear and clean..."

"Hold on. I feel as if I am reading the introduction of a scenery if you read that way. Isn't the rainwater very dirty? I only want to know that," looking at a series of adjectives to describe the scenery, Yuan Zhou stopped the system hurriedly.

After pausing for a while, the system continued displaying, "The conditions there are wilder. Another reason is that the local authority took severe measures to protect the scenery. The airport of Hobart, the capital city of Tasmania State, might be called a miniature airport. It allowed only domestic flights in and out, but no fresh fruits and fishes can be brought into the island. Otherwise, these items would be confiscated and the people would be penalized. The ecological environment of the island was quite good, therefore it was likewise called the End of the World where nature dominated everything.

"The rainwater is taken from the upper air and is free from bacteria and dust. It's safe to drink and has a natural texture."

"It's truly like the introduction of the scenery," Yuan Zhou

grumbled. However, the place seemed attractive to him.

"I might go there and have a look when I have time," Yuan Zhou thought in the heart. He was not really a moneygrubber. People earned money to spend. Although the numerical digits in his bank account had always been rising, he didn't seem to spend much.

Right now, he was quite curious about the taste of the water.

He picked up the cup and drank up all the water following a sound of "Gu Dong Gu Dong".

"Hoo. Very nice, but not as good as mine," after drinking, Yuan Zhou recollected the aftertaste for a while and then said.

Of course the water was not so good as that for Yuan Zhou himself, as the two different liquids were not on the same level. Although the welcoming set meal also had powerful backing, such a cup of water about 200ml was really not cheap, about 8 RMB.

After all, a whole bottle of the water about 750ml would be USD 5.00.

The water naturally cannot compare with that especially provided by the system for Yuan Zhou to supplement his dissipated energy.

"What's this?" after Yuan Zhou drank the water, he started to study the stuff wrapped in the wafer paper.

The system displayed, "The white one is the appetizing candy while the ginger one is the after-meal candy."

"None of the dishes in my restaurant are pungent. What's more, do they really need to whet their appetite to eat my dishes?" Yuan Zhou indicated that he was puzzled. Nonetheless, he directly peeled the candy out and ate it without ceasing the movement of his hands.

The system displayed, "The candy paper is also edible."

When he saw the instructions of the system, Yuan Zhou stuffed the candy paper back into his mouth, and then he finally understood why it was called appetizing candy.

After eating the candy along with the candy paper, he realized it wasn't sweet at all and actually had a hint of tart flavor despite the name of candy. Once it entered the mouth, the candy directly melted and flowed from the throat into the stomach. Instantly, a current of air leaped up, leaving an empty stomach.

"So it is like that," Yuan Zhou understood instantly.

The candy seemed to have eliminated the gas from inside the body, making the body and soul comfortable and relaxed and moreover increasing one's appetite, which enabled people to enjoy a much purer delicacy.

"I still don't know the taste of the after-meal candy," Yuan Zhou picked up another candy wrapped in the ginger wafer paper and stuffed it into his mouth along with the candy paper.

Same to the other one, this candy carried a texture of the nectar of a particular floret that he had eaten in his childhood. It had only a little freshness and sweetness of the plant. After melting in the mouth, it didn't have any other taste.

"They really deserve their names. System, how much is the set meal?" Yuan Zhou asked curiously.

The system displayed, "..."

Chapter 215: Spiced Egg and Spiced Beans

A serving of the Welcoming Set Meal was basically eaten by Yuan Zhou. Right now, only the price of the set meal was unknown to him.

"System, what's the price of the set meal?" Yuan Zhou asked curiously.

The system displayed, "This set meal is a variety of the [seat charge](#). The price for each serving will be shown on the price list at noon tomorrow."

"You can't even tell me now?" Yuan Zhou felt rather speechless.

The system didn't answer him this time. It seemed to be reluctant to tell Yuan Zhou.

However, Yuan Zhou wouldn't give up so easily. Soon he opened his mouth again, "If you don't tell me the price, I won't need to pay for this serving, right?"

Before he said that, Yuan Zhou first checked the cash in the drawer and the balance in his bank account. He even confirmed the numerical digits after the decimal point.

With that excuse, Yuan Zhou didn't believe the money-happy system still wouldn't tell him the price. Even if it didn't tell him directly, Yuan Zhou could also work out the price of the set meal in

a reverse direction after the money was deducted.

A smile appeared on the face of Yuan Zhou, who was quite complacent about this terrific idea.

The system displayed, "20 RMB for each serving."

As anticipated, the system reported the price to him in order to charge him.

"Humm. With that price, I can afford it," the usual expressionless face was suddenly filled with a happy smile.

It was unknown if the system would hold the grudge and scam him again next time.

Suddenly, Yuan Zhou recovered from the bliss and said, "System, is the price of 20 RMB too cheap?"

Nonetheless, the system didn't have any reaction.

"All right. I might as well prepare to start the business," Yuan Zhou pulled the clothes straight and said carelessly.

After all, he didn't need to absorb any cost for the dish. Yuan Zhou loved the business without cost the most.

Having cleared some parts of the restaurant, Yuan Zhou pulled open the door. At that moment, the customers would soon arrive to drink.

After that time, Fang Heng also became a regular customer of Yuan Zhou's restaurant. He was first a regular customer of drinking liquor and then he started to savor the dishes.

However, he was quite dissatisfied with the rule of not providing dishes while drinking. But who did he think Yuan Zhou was? He was the Compass and his rule was to follow the rules.

Therefore, Fang Heng's protest ended up with a failure in the end.

Nonetheless, that didn't really affect Fang Heng coming to draw the lottery every day and the reward was naturally a pot of Bamboo Liquor worth of 5888 RMB.

Fang Heng only managed to get the reward twice.

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On the next early morning, Yuan Zhou ate 4 Duck Oil Sesame Seed Cake without a break along with a bowl of iced soybean milk that he had prepared with the soybeans provided by the system.

Of course, his own breakfast had to be more diversified. While eating the sesame seed cake, he drank a mouthful of the icy

soybean milk comfortably.

When he realized the time was almost up, Yuan Zhou began to open the door. As expected, Mu Xiaoyun was waiting at the door tamely. After running in a long distance, she carried a flush on her face, which let the young girl appear more beautiful and lovely.

"Morning, boss," she might have recalled that Yuan Zhou would treat her today, hence Mu Xiaoyun greeted him with embarrassment.

"Come on in," after a nod, Yuan Zhou turned around and went back to the kitchen.

After dishing up the Duck Oil Sesame Seed Oil, Yuan Zhou found Mu Xiaoyun was still standing at the usual place uneasily.

"Come and sit here. You are a customer right now," Yuan Zhou signaled Mu Xiaoyun to sit at the middle of the long table.

"But....." before Mu Xiaoyun finished speaking, she was interrupted by Yuan Zhou.

"There are only five minutes left before the business time starts," Yuan Zhou said seriously.

"Ok. Sorry to bother you, boss," Mu Xiaoyun didn't want to affect the business, hence went up and sat down soon.

"Just eat it," Yuan Zhou set down the sesame seed cake and began to prepare the breakfast.

The breakfast today was naturally the Duck Oil Sesame Seed Cake, with only 95 pieces left.

It was the first time for Mu Xiaoyun to eat Yuan Zhou's dishes ever since she worked here. Immediately, she understood clearly why the customers were all fond of eating here.

"Boss, it's sooooo delicious," with a mouthful of the sesame seed cake, Mu Xiaoyun complimented repeatedly, speaking with a lisp. Now she finally understood why so many people came and waited in line.

"Humm," Yuan Zhou indicated that he had heard her with a nod. Then he continued to prepare the breakfast.

By then, there had been customers waiting in line outside the restaurant.

The first several people were all from the Gourmet Backup Group. The group was filled with Mu Xiaoyun's messages with the content that Boss Yuan would treat her to the Duck Oil Sesame Seed Cake. Therefore, they didn't feel surprised about it.

Others who weren't in the Gourmet Group nevertheless felt puzzled. There happened to be one right now.

"Look, somebody is eating inside. But isn't it not the opening hours?" A customer waiting after tens of people asked with puzzlement.

"That's true. There are still three minutes left. Compass never breaks his own rules," this customer seemed to have a deep understanding about Yuan Zhou's rules.

"But someone is indeed eating inside. Wait, wait. Is it Xiaoyun?" This customer stretched out his neck and eventually saw Mu Xiaoyun who was eating in the restaurant.

"Has Xiaoyun saved enough money?" The customers were slightly curious.

With the friendly thought of sharing the big surprise with others, the person who was ahead of them and happened to know the truth said, "No, Boss Yuan is treating. He is treating Xiaoyun to the sesame seed cake."

"Ho Ho. I'm awake today," the customer revealed an expression of "Don't joke with me".

Last time, few people knew about Yuan Zhou treating others in his spare time. This time, however, was different. After Mu Xiaoyun's excited advertisement in the Gourmet group, all group members got to know about that.

The influence was nevertheless more substantial.

"I feel it should be a clear and sunny day today and it's not likely to rain," a customer knowing well of Yuan Zhou's rules looked up at the cloudless sky seriously.

"Xiaoyun has definitely saved enough money, as a sesame seed cake is not so expensive," this customer must have a stomach of a foodie. When he spoke of the words of sesame seed cake, he couldn't help but swallow some saliva.

"It is said by Mu Xiaoyun herself that Boss Yuan is treating her to that," a customer from the gourmet group said affirmatively with a smile on his face.

"What the fu*k?" The customer who had just talked about the weather suddenly made a sound to himself.

Another customer beside him seemed to understand, saying, "It must be the sound of your worldview breaking apart."

"You are right. Actually I think I have a good-looking face, too. Will Boss Yuan possibly treat me to one?" The customer suddenly stroked his own face and then said confidently.

"Even Yin Ya has never succeeded," a customer tried to frustrate him.

"Then I believe Boss Yuan definitely has a good reason to treat

Xiaoyun," the customer said with a resolute and decisive tone.

"He truly has. It's said that Boss Yuan has obtained the qualification to be listed on the gourmet map because Xiaoyun endeavors much to publicize for him earnestly," a customer from the gourmet group affirmed the statement that there was a reason and then explained to them.

"That makes sense now. After all, Boss Yuan is exactly the Compass." The customer let out a sigh of relief.

All the discussions during the breakfast in the street were unknown to Yuan Zhou. Anyhow, he always believed that he was a magnanimous and charming man.

With a good mood, Yuan Zhou decided to serve a new dish, the Spiced Egg.

As the Spiced Egg was boiled and prepared with the stew ingredients and the earthen pot, the flavor seemed to be unique. And the ingredients were excellent due to their freshness. Nonetheless, as the time was limited and he needed to make preparations beforehand, the dish was only available to be eaten at noon tomorrow.

Therefore, they could only smell the taste today without any chance to eat it. It was simply a torment for those foodies. After all, the stew ingredients were originally very fragrant and became much yummier with Yuan Zhou's secret recipe.

Torturous...

The seat charge is the money (usu. a small amount) charged for the basic service to each of the customers when they dine in the restaurant. In this chapter, it means every customer has to pay the seat charge for the welcoming set meal.

Chapter 216: Spiced Egg

People in the street started to suffer again as the system didn't keep the taste from leaking while it wasn't business time; thus, the fragrance filled in the street.

"Boss Yuan is again preparing delicious dishes now?" Boss Tong, whose store was closest to him, stretched out the head and looked at the open door of Yuan Zhou's restaurant.

"Boss Tong, what flavor is that?" A short-haired girl, who was taking the clothes out for dry cleaning, asked curiously.

"The neighboring store is a famous restaurant. The young boss's craftsmanship is definitely marvelous," Boss Tong turned the head and said to the girl with a smile.

"Oh, a restaurant. I must go and have a try," the short-haired girl said affirmatively while smelling the taste.

"The dishes cooked by Boss Yuan are not cheap and can even be compared with those of grand hotels. However, they deserve the price," Boss Tong introduced to the girl while clearing the clothes up.

"I got it. Is it Yuan Zhou's restaurant?" The girl suddenly reacted.

"You know it as well?" Boss Tong was a little surprise.

The short-haired girl was a regular customer of Boss Tong. However, she came only once every month. During normal times, she was always away for business travel, thus Boss Tong seldom saw her. Now that even she knew about Yuan Zhou's restaurant, Boss Tong got slightly curious.

"Yes, of course. Boss Yuan is a very famous person in our company. The HR supervisor of our company often comes here for meals. Occasionally, she shares with us some photos of the dishes, which appear as similar as the fake ones. Nonetheless, they are indeed beautiful," the girl said animatedly.

"That's right. His dishes are not only tasty, but also beautiful." Boss Tong recalled the plate of tofu and revealed a smile on the face.

While the two of them were complimenting Yuan Zhou continuously, the entrance of Yuan Zhou's restaurant had disappeared among the mass of customers who waited in line. It just happened in only dozens of minutes.

Fortunately, the four guys that had beaten Yuan Zhou were maintaining the order.

"Please, keep in a straight line. No one can eat well with the mess. Please, everybody," the tall guy said while walking along the line.

People all cared more about their image now. They might do petty actions when there was nobody monitoring. But if there was someone to monitor them at the side, they were reluctant to lose

face in public. Therefore, all of them went back to the line and kept a straight line.

"Jesus. My stomach is singing even before the usual lunch time." Some people that couldn't bear hunger for long were awating time to go faster.

"Don't mention it. I have just eaten a piece of bread. But as soon as I smelled the fragrance, I become hungry again," the people behind him followed.

"That's right. Boss Yuan shows no mercy to our stomachs. He doesn't even close the door. The taste is really really appetizing," the person took a deep breath and then said.

"Does the fragrance smell like Spiced Beans?" This senior foodie had started to analyze what Yuan Zhou was cooking.

"Well, so it is. Is he cooking the Spiced Beans again?" The sound of discussion followed from the front to the back. Since nobody could eat now and it was so boring to wait in line, they began to talk with other.

"I feel it's a new thing. It smells a little different from the Spiced Beans that I have eaten before." This is a customer who had eaten the Spiced Beans.

"I have no interest in that. I left my phone at home, so I just want to know how long it will need before commencing business." In a

word, eating mattered most.

Yuan Zhou had already seen the bustling scene outside the restaurant, but he always focused his full attention on cooking. Even if there was a particular mission or reward, he would still receive it first and check it after business time ended.

Therefore, he concentrated on doing his own matters.

Spiced Egg was a totally different thing from the Tea Egg. Of course, the Spiced Egg could also be called the Spiced Tea Egg, but this time Yuan Zhou was cooking a completely different egg dish.

Besides, the system specifically prepared exclusive eggs for this dish. It could then be judged that the Spiced Egg was totally different from the Tea Egg.

"It's again the green-shell egg?" Yuan Zhou opened the cabinet, took out an egg and then asked softly.

The system displayed, "This is the Five-Black Egg, a different breed."

"What kind of egg is it this time? I know it's surely superior to the eggs that I have eaten in my past 24 years again," Yuan Zhou took out several light green eggs and asked jokingly.

The system displayed, "The chicken is indeed extremely difficult to rear. It requires careful feeding."

Not knowing why, Yuan Zhou unexpectedly managed to hear from the short sentence that the chicken was very easy to rear and just required little care.

"It must be an illusion." Yuan Zhou suppressed those weird thoughts dumbly.

Having disregarded Yuan Zhou's mood, the system turned on the explanation mode in the next second.

The system displayed, "Nancheng Five-Black Chicken originates from the Xunxi Town of Nancheng County with a breeding history of more than 1300 years. The characteristics it has are black pea comb, black feathers, black skin, black flesh and black bones, therefore its eggs are called Five-Black Egg with the green egg shell."

"Five-Black Chicken is an example of the most excellent local breed that has preserved until now. Ever since ancient times, it has been regarded as the 'Treasure of Chickens' and 'Chinese Black Treasure', which has extremely high nutrition and medical value."

"What's more, the Five-Black Chicken is also called medicinal chicken, with very high medical value. The chicken itself can be used as the guiding drug. As the source of the eggs, the Five-Black Chicken was selected carefully and specially. The incubation requires the breeding eggs laid by the chicken that has no medical history in the past 60 years."

"No medical history in the past 60 years? Ho Ho, I feel I'm quite healthy, too," Yuan Zhou couldn't help grumbling.

Then, he was disregarded by the system unsurprisingly.

The system displayed, "With the chickens reared that way, the Five-Black Egg has 17 amino acids and various multiple vitamins and trace elements. The content of the fat and cholesterol is very low (as low as about 1/4 of the ordinary chickens). Meanwhile, the skin is thin and the flesh tender while the fragrance is delicate and the taste yummy. In one word, it's a kind of splendid tonic food."

"I feel I'm just in need of a tonic food," Yuan Zhou directly picked up an egg and started to eat after peeling the eggshell off immodestly.

During the process, he blew upon the egg to cool it down while eating. Of course, it happened after the egg had just been boiled.

After the eggshell was peeled off, the thick egg white emitted a much fainter scent and had no underlying bad smell. With a simple bite, Yuan Zhou bit half of the egg off. The egg yolk took on a dry yellow color, appearing awfully beautiful."

"It truly has a wonderful texture," Yuan Zhou ate it up quickly and said with a sigh.

Only after eating an egg did Yuan Zhou become satisfied. After that, he continued to prepare the ingredients of the Spiced Egg.

He took out a cloth bag and began to add ingredients into the bag.

As for the origin of the cloth bag, Yuan Zhou indicated that he had barely been comforted and now he didn't need to be shocked again, hence didn't even try to ask. Judging from the flaxen color, however, it surely wasn't dyed.

"4 spoons of well salt, 3 spoons of white sugar, a handful of wild pepper, some star anises, a little cinnamons, cooking wine, aniseed, Qiu You, some dried orange peel and cloves whole...." While reading silently, Yuan Zhou added these flavorings into the cloth bag.

After all the ingredients were prepared ready, the eggs soaked in the glacier water were also available to be peeled.

Yuan Zhou picked up an egg with the chopsticks and then knocked on both ends of the egg with the taste-free spoon, making a sound of "Peng Peng". After that, the egg shell fractured along the direction of the force from top down. So did the other side of the egg.

The method and strength of every knock was slightly different, as if he were creating a very delicate painting.

All the eggs were put into the earthen jar after being knocked that way. Then Yuan Zhou placed the prepared cloth bag and Qiu You into the jar to boil them all together.

What the customers outside smelled was exactly this fragrance emitted therein...

Chapter 217: Hateful Yuan Zhou

The longer the eggs were boiled, the stronger the scent became and the sooner lunch time approached.

"Brother Wu, do you know what Boss Yuan is cooking?" A customer who really couldn't resist his curiosity asked.

"I have no idea," Wu Hai said seriously while stroking his mustache.

"Brother Wu, aren't you curious?" The customer obviously knew that Wu Hai had a nice relationship with Yuan Zhou.

"Yes, I am. But I will know the answer in a moment," Wu Hai said primly.

Of course, Wu Hai also felt speechless in the heart. He was originally thinking about the conception of his next painting, but just when he got an inspiration, he was attracted by the fragrance of Yuan Zhou's dish. Instantly, his stomach rose in rebellion and no longer followed his instructions.

Luckily, Wu Hai managed to grasp the inspiration at that very moment; otherwise, he would definitely beat Yuan Zhou to death and let him know it would be fatal if he didn't close the door while cooking at this moment of the day.

He didn't move the brush at all for the painting. Nothing could

be more important than eating. And food was always the first necessity for people. Persuaded with these excuses, Wu Hai began to wait in line for lunch deservedly.

The earnest persuasion of Zheng Jiawei five minutes ago was naturally neglected automatically by Wu Hai. Eating mattered the most. Haven't you found those who intended to lose weight all said that they must eat their fill before getting the strength to do that? It was also a reasonable logic that he must eat his fill first and then had the strength to paint.

Fortunately, the business hour was arriving soon.

"Business time starts now. Everybody, you can order dishes now," standing at the door, Mu Xiaoyun said mildly.

"Finally it's the time. I almost starved," Jiang Changxi entered Yuan Zhou's restaurant silently the first and then sighed with emotion after she got seated.

"What do you want to eat today?" Mu Xiaoyun accepted the orders according to the sequence of getting seated every time.

"Young sister, you go to ask others first. I have something to ask Boss Yuan," said Jiang Changxi while looking at Yuan Zhou.

Yuan Zhou took a step back alertly and recalled the red balls in the lottery box. This woman had more than once wanted to cheat, thus Yuan Zhou indicated that he wouldn't be fooled at all.

"Boss Yuan, what delicious dishes are you preparing today?" Jiang Changxi stared at Yuan Zhou with her bright and big eyes, without blinking.

"Spiced Eggs, for the lunch tomorrow," Yuan Zhou made an explanation when he noticed that other customers around were all listening to him carefully.

"What? It's not available today?" Jiang Changxi indicated that she wanted to beat him.

"Humm, it's only available for sale at noon tomorrow," Yuan Zhou said affirmatively.

"Starting from today, the restaurant will charge every customer a seat charge for lunch and dinner. The price is behind you guys," Yuan Zhou slightly raised his voice and said.

"Seat charge? Then what do you provide for that, Boss Yuan?" It's the customer who directly asked questions without looking at the price.

"Same as other dishes provided in the restaurant," Yuan Zhou said unhurriedly.

"20 RMB per serving. This is probably the cheapest price in the restaurant of Boss Yuan," Jiang Changxi looked back at the price list and then said.

"Yeah, that's true. I'm more curious about what the dish is," it was a customer who had much curiosity.

"You'll know after ordering it. But I really can't order the Spiced Egg?" Jiang Changxi was still suffering from an obsession over the Spiced Eggs.

"Absolutely," Yuan Zhou nodded his head seriously.

"Such a hateful Compass!" Jiang Changxi mumbled a few words and then raised her head to order the dishes, "A serving of Clear Broth Noodle Soup Set and Phoenix-Tail Prawns."

"Ok. It's totally 1616 RMB. Payment by credit card is acceptable," Yuan Zhou reported the price to her.

"Alright. It's done." Jiang Changxi made the transfer and paid the bill immediately after she ordered the dishes. She could do nothing more but to wait.

"One moment, please. The dishes are to be served right away," Yuan Zhou nodded the head, indicating that he had received the transfer.

The cooking method of the Clear Broth Noodle Soup was quite familiar to Yuan Zhou. For the cooking method of the Phoenix-Tail Prawns, however, there was something new this time.

"What the fu*k! Did I see something just now?" The customers who were earnestly ordering their dishes were suddenly attracted by the bad words. When they raised the head and looked at Yuan Zhou, they got stupefied collectively.

As the dish of Phoenix-Tail Prawns wasn't cheap, only a few people ordered it. Therefore, Yuan Zhou hadn't shown the customers his cooking procedure of this dish ever since he obtained his superb knife skills.

It was originally an enjoyment, as natural as the floating clouds and flowing water, to watch Yuan Zhou cooking. Now, it further upgraded to an enjoyment as marvelous as the floating clouds and flowing water.

The anterior procedures were always the same. He easily scooped the exact prawns out with the fishing net. With a slight shake of his wrist, the prawns dropped into the basin as if they had jumped inside voluntarily one after another.

Having finished the brushing and massaging, Yuan Zhou took out the miraculous kitchen knife. With simple movements after a sound of "Hua Hua", Yuan Zhou singled out the intact shrimp line without using his hands. Even the tail of the prawn, which was most difficult to be peeled, was also cleanly processed.

The several movements of the knife just now could simply be captured in TV programs only, being extremely swift and precise and with no redundant actions.

"Tsk-tsk. This is the first time I've seen such superb knife skills in reality," a customer said after a sigh with emotion.

"I thought I bumped into a master chef just now," without blinking the eyes, another customer chimed in.

"He's really a master chef. I thought I did not see clearly just now. Frankly speaking, Boss Yuan's culinary skills are much too excellent," the customers said admiringly.

"Fortunately, I ordered the Phoenix-Tail Prawns," Jiang Changxi said at the side.

Although the customers were all discussing in a low voice, their eyes yet didn't move from Yuan Zhou.

After that, when Yuan Zhou prepared to carve the sculpture of a phoenix inhabiting in the phoenix tree, the customers were again astounded in the heart.

Previously when he did the same procedures, Yuan Zhou used a special carving knife. The movements of his hands were flexible and quick. This time, however, he bluntly used the miraculous kitchen knife. Of course, Yuan Zhou cleaned the knife with the boiling water before sculpting for disinfection and getting rid of the bad smell.

"Sculpting a flower with the kitchen knife? Marvelous! It's the first time I have seen this," Jiang Changxi supported the chin with

her two hands and said happily.

"I feel what I have seen before is merely radish sculptures. Only this can be called flower sculptures," a customer said unbelievably when he saw Yuan Zhou carve a sculpture of a phoenix inhabiting in the phoenix tree in one go.

"Boss Yuan has such an unexpected superb craftsmanship. With it, he can even make a sculpture on a piece of tofu," said another customer who knew something about the culinary skills.

"Yeah, you are right. Boss Yuan can even sculpt such a delicate works with a rough thing like the kitchen knife. I'm really convinced of his craftsmanship now," said the customer after he heaved a sigh.

"Didn't you say that you had already been convinced of his craftsmanship?" There were always people who counteracted others' words.

"Can't I say it again?" The customer didn't mind at all. He just said straightforwardly.

"We indeed ought to be convinced," Jiang Changxi said conclusively.

At that time, Yuan Zhou likewise carried her dishes up to her.

"Here are your dishes," the dishes carried up were placed in two

trays.

One was the Welcoming Set Meal consisting of a cup of water, two candies and a piece of napkin, with the Clear Broth Noodle Soup Set in its spare place, while the other was the eye-appealing Phoenix-Tail Prawns.

"Is it the set meal provided in the name of seat charge? It turns out to deserve the name well." Never had she expected it to be an ordinary thing. Just a few minutes ago, she thought it to be something special.

"They are the appetizing candy and after-meal candy, which are to be eaten before the meal and after the meal," Yuan Zhou told them the use of the two candies.

"Who would be so stupid to eat candies before the meal? Luckily, I have a cup of water," Jiang Changxi gave a discontented glimpse at Yuan Zhou.

She picked up the appetizing candy with one hand and the cup of water with the other and prepared to swallow the candy in the same way of taking medicines.

"You don't need to eat it like that. Just eat it directly," Yuan Zhou reminded.

"Really?" Only then did she become skeptical. But she didn't think too much as it was merely a candy. There were nevertheless

many candies that could be eaten directly.

After the candy was swallowed, it straightforwardly melted and flowed into the stomach before Jiang Changxi drank water. With her eyebrows raised, she surprisingly found the candy was not sweet.

Besides that.....

Chapter 218: Waiting

Originally thinking that items called candy were all sweet, Jiang Changxi, on the contrary, found she was wrong after she swallowed this one. Despite the name of appetizing candy, it wasn't really sweet. At least it wasn't so strong as other candies.

In her childhood, she could even eat up half a bottle of jam on an empty stomach, not to mention the candies. Now as she was getting older, she was unable to eat such sweet things.

Not only was the appetizing candy not sweet, but also it had a hint of tart flavor, which went along the mouth cavity into the stomach.

Instantly, she felt greatly refreshed as if some foul air were swept away. After that, the hunger immediately rose up from the stomach.

A miracle drug.

"It's really appetizing." Looking at the dishes in front of her, Jiang Changxi suddenly got an impulse to order another serving of the welcoming set meal. However, it was no more than an impulse.

The purpose of the appetizing candy was merely to arouse the appetite rather than let people eat more.

"Gu Dong". Since she was holding the cup in her hand, Jiang

Changxi directly drank up a mouthful of the water.

"How do you like the water?" Yuan Zhou had already gone back to the kitchen to prepare the dishes. It was a customer who waited to eat at the side that asked the question.

Looking at the satisfied expression on the face of Jiang Changxi while eating, he couldn't help asking curiously.

"Just so-so. Well, not bad," Jiang Changxi really felt the water was quite ordinary but definitely tasted better than the mineral water. With her position, Jiang Changxi naturally wouldn't drink that.

"Gee? Is it only ordinary? I don't believe that," the customer said in surprise.

When had Yuan Zhou ever served ordinary things? The customer obviously didn't believe her words.

"Tasmanian Rain. It must be the source of this water. This specific batch probably isn't sold to foreign countries. The taste is better than those sold on the market," Jiang Changxi drank another mouthful of the water and came out with some English words before saying.

"If it's forbidden to sell to foreign countries, then how does Boss Yuan buy the water?" The customers asked with curiosity.

"A regional protection policy. This is what it means," Jiang Changxi said with an experienced manner.

"Understood. It's the kind that wasn't available outside that region but local people could buy it." It seemed that the customer had ever bumped into such similar things before.

"You are right," Jiang Changxi nodded the head.

"Then it should be quite good. Why do you say it's only average?" The customer said discontentedly.

The regional protection policy usually aimed at the best stuff and restricted them from being sold outside the region. This is understood by the customers. However, if Yuan Zhou had got the most authentic water, why did Jiang Changxi say it's only average?

"I thought it would be like Acqua di Cristallo Tributo a Modigliani or Kona Nigari Water," Jiang Changxi said honestly.

"Have you ever drunk it?" A customer asked curiously.

"No, never. The Acqua di Cristallo Tributo a Modigliani is 360 thousand RMB per bottle. I can't afford it," Jiang Changxi shrugged and indicated that she expected to drink the water just because she hadn't drunk it before.

"Here are your dishes," at that time, Yuan Zhou happened to carry her dishes up.

Hearing Jiang Changxi's words, he straightforwardly uttered, "For the first mineral water, they are actually selling the valuable bottle rather than the water itself, as the bottle is made from the pure gold. Furthermore, they add 5 mg of gold powder to the water. As for the second one, it's sold only in Japan."

While speaking, Yuan Zhou felt lucky that he had already leafed through all the information about those well-known mineral waters worldwide.

"Why do you always show off your distinct personality?" Jiang Changxi said. She felt rather speechless at Yuan Zhou.

"The water is best suitable for drinking during the meal. It's the best," Yuan Zhou said primly, not revealing any manner of showing off anything.

"We all know that our Boss Yuan is the most generous person," Jiang Changxi made eyes at Yuan Zhou and teased him.

In response to Jiang Changxi, Yuan Zhou immediately turned around and walked away. God knew if this woman wanted to drink his liquor for free. There were always bad guys who wanted to cheat his money. Then he walked to the kitchen with quick steps as the business was fairly busy at noon.

Jiang Changxi ate very quickly at noon. In only 20 minutes, she finished her lunch and then prepared to draw the lottery eagerly.

When she saw the after-meal candy on the table, however, she directly gulped it down based on the principle of not wasting anything. Of course, it was also because the appetizing candy wasn't sweet.

"The taste is different, but still, it's nice," Jiang Changxi compressed her lips and felt only a refreshing taste in her mouth at the moment. The taste of the Phoenix-Tail Prawns and Clear Broth Noodle Soup nevertheless stayed deeper in her heart for the aftertaste and digestion.

The after-meal candy was as bland as usual, with a hint of sweet and sour taste. Once it entered the mouth, it completely melted. It was very convenient to eat and besides, had no icky taste after eating it.

"Boss Yuan, the lucky draw, I want to draw the lottery," Jiang Changxi was satisfied with the taste of the after-meal candy and said more excitedly.

"Xiaoyun, give the box to her," Yuan Zhou didn't answer her but just instructed Mu Xiaoyun.

"Ok, boss," Mu Xiaoyun took up the cardboard box cannily and came to Jiang Changxi.

"Elder sister, there are still two red balls inside now," with a smiling expression, Mu Xiaoyun handed the box to Jiang Changxi.

"Great. Then just wait for my good luck," Jiang Changxi was a "three lost" woman. Even if she was called elder sister by Mu Xiaoyun, she just answered readily, not showing any embarrassment at all.

Wearing a bright yellow one-piece dress and a white shirt outside, Jiang Changxi appeared to be refreshing and natural. While taking a leather handbag with one hand, she reached out the other hand into the box and touched all the balls, preparing to get a red ball.

"Come on," Mu Xiaoyun encouraged her at the side.

Following a sound of "Hua La", Jiang Changxi selected a ball at the deepest corner, grabbed it and took it out.

The hand of Jiang Changxi was white and slender, thus it couldn't fully cover the ball. Mu Xiaoyun caught sight of it first.

"It's the red ball. You made it," Mu Xiaoyun said excitedly.

"Didn't I tell you? This lady always has a good luck," Jiang Changxi said proudly.

"Haw-haw. Boss Yuan, the money has been transferred to your account. A pot of liquor at night belongs to me now," Jiang Changxi said happily.

"Come over here on time at night. Late arrivals won't be admitted in." After a nod, Yuan Zhou came out with the usual words.

Jiang Changxi's answer, nevertheless, was waving the hand while walking out, indicating that she had heard him.

Having walked outside the restaurant, Jiang Changxi took up her phone, "Master Bai, where are you now?"

From the other end of the phone passed a male voice, saying he would arrive in no time. After answering him, Jiang Changxi went up for a few steps and stood there waiting for the cab.

In a little while, a green cab pulled over beside her.

"Get in the car, Little Jiang," the driver stretched out his head out of the car and spoke to Jiang Changxi.

"Ok," she got on the car and shut the car door cleanly with a sound of "Peng".

"Are you here for the meal again?" Master Bai asked smilingly.

Master Bai was a plain-looking middle-aged man who was dressed in a blue uniform of a cab company. With a beer belly, he appeared like a pregnant woman at the fifth or sixth month.

"Yeah. I have to come here again to drink liquor at night. Please pick me up at 12:00," Jiang Changxi nodded her head and said happily.

"So you got the red ball again?" Master Bai spoke to her while driving the car carefully.

"Of course. I always have a good luck," Jiang Changxi said with a quite complacent manner.

"Yeah, absolutely. The liquor of that restaurant is really nice," It reminded Master Bai of the scent of the liquor that came from her body when he came to pick Jiang Changxi up at night last time. With a simple smell, he got to know it was a top-notch good wine.

"What about treating you to a cup of the liquor tonight, Master Bai?" Jiang Changxi knew that Master Bai was also fond of drinking.

"No, thanks. Maybe next time," Master Bai refused flatly with a big smile.

"Ok, next time," Jiang Changxi didn't insist on her request.

"Here we are. 25 RMB in all," Master Bai parked the car at an office building and then told her.

"No problem. Just remember to come to pick me up at 8:00 in the evening. Thank you, Master Bai," Jiang Changxi didn't forget to

remind him.

Master Bai made a gesture of "Ok" and pulled away to drive other customers...

Chapter 219: Distinction between Tea Egg and Spiced Egg

On that night, Jiang Changxi got into the car along with a wonderful scent of liquor. Just in a little while, the car was filled with the faint smell.

"It is so fragrant. It's the same liquor, isn't it?" Master Bai smelled and then said affirmatively.

"Boss Yuan won't serve a new liquor so quickly. But the current one is just perfect for me," Jiang Changxi liked drinking the liquor very much.

It was as sweet as the pear juice, with the aftertaste lingering in the mouth endlessly. And it wasn't really intoxicating. Even if the person was drunk, he would, nevertheless, still be conscious and wouldn't have a headache the next morning. Moreover, he would also feel extraordinarily refreshed.

"Good wine does deserve to be drunk," Master Bai chimed in with a smile.

"Let me treat you to a cup of the liquor. What do you think?" Jiang Changxi asked conveniently.

"No, thanks. My wife is still waiting for me at home," Master Bai said with a happy expression.

"Is she still waiting for you now?" Jiang Changxi was a little curious.

"Yes. Every time I work at night, she's worried about me," Master Bai explained with a smile.

"She is caring about you," Jiang Changxi also said with a smile.

"Haw-haw. We have been married for so many years," he was naturally happy when he heard Jiang Changxi praising his wife.

...

A day and night had passed. It was time to uncover the earthen pot where the Spiced Eggs were boiled.

Therefore, the customers that waited in line that day, again, smelled the scent of a special fragrance around them.

"It's supposed to be the Spiced Egg prepared yesterday. Can we eat it today?" When Customer A saw Yuan Zhou uncover the earthen pot, he became fairly curious.

"Yeah, I think so. I'm so eager to taste it." Customer B was intoxicated with the fragrance. He said while smelling the fragrance.

"Ho Ho. Do you know how much the tea egg is?" Another one, C

behind B showed a calm manner.

"1888 RMB. I know I can't afford it, but I could have some fantasies," Customer B got frustrated first and then he raised his spirits and said.

"I don't think the price is the same." It was Customer D who was taking a chance with hopes for the price.

"Tell us what makes you think that way," Customer C crossed his arms on the chest and asked D to explain.

"Look. The tea egg is expensive because the tea used by Boss Yuan is expensive. But as far as I know, the spiced egg doesn't require the tea. So I guess it won't be so expensive as the tea egg," when he said the latter part, even he himself became not confident.

After all, dishes in Yuan Zhou's restaurant were all top-notch delicacies. It was really hard to say how much a spiced egg would be.

"Business time starts now. Everyone can order your dishes," the voice of Mu Xiaoyun voided the customers redundant guessing. They could just directly go inside and have a look.

"Let me look at the price of the spiced egg first," the first thing that Customer A did after entering the restaurant was to look at the price list.

"Tell us after you see the price." Other customers waiting behind also wanted to know anxiously. However, since Yuan Zhou's restaurant was so small, they could only wait outside the door for the message.

"No problem," the customers in the restaurant also understood well the mood of others who waited outside.

The first several customers all looked back at the price list after they entered. They all had different reactions when they saw the price.

"Hoo... This price is somewhat acceptable for me to have a taste. I don't think a mere egg can make one swallow his tongue," a customer smelled the remaining little fragrance of the stew ingredients in the restaurant and said bitterly.

He was known to be severely tortured by the fragrance yesterday as he could only smell the fragrance but couldn't eat it. Yesterday evening, he specifically bought a spiced egg to eat. To his surprise, the spiced eggs selling on the market were all inferior tea eggs. Even the fragrance wasn't comparable, let alone the taste.

"What the fu*k. I might as well order a serving of Egg Fried Rice Set to calm down." Having seen the price, a customer sat down quietly and ordered a serving of the set meal before he started to eat.

"488 RMB for an egg. Well, it conforms perfectly to my tasteful personality. Get me an egg," Ling Hong took a glimpse at the price

and said calmly.

For others, Mu Xiaoyun just reported the price to them but no one ordered a serving anymore.

The Spiced Eggs had all been boiled beforehand. Before being served, they needed to be boiled again and only then, be eaten. Therefore, Mu Xiaoyun carried the two spiced eggs to the two customers very soon.

"Brother Ling, here's your Spiced Egg," Mu Xiaoyun first carried the egg to Ling Hong, who was closer to her.

Then she carried the other egg to the customer, "Sir, here's your Spiced Egg."

"Again, it's not peeled," Ling Hong asked Yuan Zhou while pointing at the eggshell.

"Food made by one's own hands tastes better," Yuan Zhou answered back with the usual words.

"Damm it. I have to personally move my hands just for an egg," Ling Hong muttered discontentedly, but his actions were not slow. As was known, he didn't move his hands even when he went to the bathroom.

Nevertheless, the other customer who got the spiced egg, Hong Xia, just remained silent at the side. He rolled up his sleeves,

revealing the watch on the wrist, and started to peel off the eggshell.

The eggshell was broken and connected with the film inside. As long as one opened a small hole, he could peel the whole shell off easily.

However, Hong Xia and Ling Hong had never done such work before, thus they all appeared to be clumsy while peeling the eggs. Comparatively, it was Ling Hong who did better and peeled the egg more quickly as he had often eaten the tea egg.

Hong Xia apparently worked in the office. He did well in typing but not in peeling eggs. Not until Ling Hong ate up the entire egg did he peel the eggshell off.

"Peeling the eggs is also a knowledge to master. No wonder Da Vinci took so long to draw an egg." Looking at the plump egg fall in the clean plate, Hong Xia was satisfied inexpressibly.

The patterns on the egg white were different from each other this time, which was due to the force from Yuan Zhou when he knocked the eggs.

"The patterns turn out to be different, as expected." Taking his half-eaten egg, Ling Hong compared it with the one of Hong Xia.

"They're truly different. Mine is like the mountain forests while yours is like the sky," Hong Xia checked them carefully.

"Boss Yuan is probably the only one that makes patterns on the egg white," while speaking, Ling Hong started to eat the egg.

Hong Xia, nevertheless, cared more about the taste of the spiced egg. With the patterns, the peeled egg was like a work of art. Although it smelled like the Spiced Beans to some extent, they had many differences.

With a sound of "Awwoo", Hong Xia bit a big piece off and then found there were different grades of colors inside the egg white. The place closer to the shell was bright and reddish brown while the place closer to the yolk was fine and smooth as well as white and tender.

Chewing it carefully, Hong Xia discovered that there was also some toughness in the tenderness of the egg white. The more he chewed, the more fragrant the egg became. Furthermore, the taste of lilacs came out slowly in his mouth. The underlying bad smell of the egg was completely removed by the dried orange peel and, moreover, there was an extra hint of orange in the taste.

After it was swallowed up by Hong Xia, the bland taste of aniseed spread throughout his mouth slowly.

"Let me try the egg yolk," looking at the plump egg yolk,. Hong Xia couldn't help biting a small piece off.

For this kind of well-cooked eggs, the egg yolk usually tended to make people choke and was not easy to be swallowed. As Yuan

Zhou had a superb craftsmanship, however, Hong Xia still gulped a piece down confidently.

Soon, he discovered the egg yolk didn't cause him to choke. Instead, it was fresh and delicious, tender and smooth, as well as fragrant and tasty.

"It's really a piece of good egg," Hong Xia said subconsciously.

"How do you like it? Does it have a good taste?" Having eaten up his egg earlier, Ling Hong tilted his head and asked him.

"It's very nice and really deserves waiting for a whole day," Hong Xia recollected the aftertaste carefully. After saying that, he took up the cup and drank a mouthful of the water.

There were far more than 5 types of fragrance blending in his mouth. The layers of the fragrance he could apparently perceive were more than 5.

"This is truly the Spiced Egg," Hong Xia gulped down the saliva with satisfaction.

"Indeed. It's totally different from the Tea Egg. I love this taste more as it has rich layers and, moreover, is fragrant," Ling Hong admitted himself to be a rough man. He would rather leave the Tea Eggs to those cultured people.

"I haven't yet eaten Boss Yuan's tea egg before. But since this

Spiced Egg is so yummy, the Tea Egg is definitely not worse than it," Hong Xia said affirmatively.

Spiced Egg and Tea Egg were originally two different dishes. Even the species of the chicken was different, let alone the taste.

Chapter 220: Work More and Work Less

People were hurrying to and fro at noon in Yuan Zhou's bustling restaurant.

"Wu Hai, I heard you are going to hold an art exhibition?" Ling Hong had some common topics with Wu Hai sometimes.

"After a week." Wu Hai drank a gulp of the seaweed soup.

"Then why are you still here?" Ling Hong showed an expression of contempt.

"It's none of your business," Wu Hai said seriously while stroking his small mustache.

"If you are gone, I can come every day," Ling Hong also said primly.

"Ok," Wu Hai answered with a nod, but still didn't mention when he would leave.

However, Zheng Jiawei who set out beforehand last night had already urged him.

The reason why Wu Hai still stayed was very simple. He hadn't learned how to cook well. Naturally, the standard was measured according to Yuan Zhou's criteria.

"Boss Yuan, you still owe me half a day." After gulping down the remaining dishes, Wu Hai looked at Yuan Zhou earnestly.

"Got it. Let's continue this afternoon. You just buy the ingredients and get them prepared," Yuan Zhou thought for a while and then accepted.

"Is it still the vegetable dish?" Wu Hai frowned.

"Do you still expect to learn cooking a meat dish?" Yuan Zhou questioned him back immodestly.

"Alright," Yuan Zhou shrugged, indicating that he understood.

When they had barely finished talking, some customers finished their meals and left. Then, another few customers entered the main hall. Two of them were considered regular customers. One was the salesman Ma Wei, who worked under Wu Anlu. And the other was likewise a young man with a good-looking face. They were talking happily.

"Pang Chao, the dishes here are truly appetizing. It's just that the price is a little expensive. You have to pay by yourself," Ma Wei pointed at the price list and then said.

"I really can't tell that such a small restaurant surprisingly serves such expensive dishes," the young man called Pang Chao had a lingering fear when he looked at the price list.

"No better choice. The dishes are super delicious," Ma Wei dragged Pang Chao to sit down and asked him what he wanted to eat after he himself ordered a serving of Egg Fried Rice.

"Me, too. The Egg Fried Rice," Pang Chao said to Mu Xiaoyun politely.

Having finished ordering the dishes, the two of them began to chat. Ma Wei didn't seem to be happy. As soon as he opened his mouth, he complained.

"You are new, so you don't know. That old tortoise is fairly troublesome. You had better be careful," Ma Wei said to Pang Chao in a seemingly serious manner.

"What's the matter?" Pang Chao tilted his head and listened to Ma Wei earnestly. As a newcomer, it would be better to follow the experience and instructions of his senior co-worker.

"We are just a salesman whose job is to get orders of decoration projects for the company. It's totally unnecessary for us to know about the materials. But the old tortoise lets us learn the materials by heart and, moreover, takes that into our performance measurement. His ridiculous excuse is to save money for the customers," once he started uttering, he couldn't just stop it, like a Gatling gun firing continuously.

"I guess we might get repeat orders if we endeavor to save money for the customers," having hesitated for a while, Pang Chao still

spoke that out.

"I don't believe in repeat orders. Formerly when I accepted an order from others, those decoration companies all fawned on me. But right now, they complain that I don't help them and hate me as if I were their enemy." While waving his hand, Ma Wei revealed an expression of "You don't understand".

"But when the achievement of the company is better, our salary also increases, doesn't it?" Pang Chao disagreed with Ma Wei, but it was not good to retort him face to face. Therefore, he had only to utter some advantages to smooth things over.

"I totally attribute it to the old tortoise looking for trouble. Now I can even recite much information about the decorative materials. As soon as I see the materials like wallpaper or floor tiles, I began to calculate the prices subconsciously. How funny it is," instead of appreciating the kindness of his superiors, he complained indignantly.

"Such a salesman as you might as well retire earlier. After you have learned the knowledge from your teacher, you unexpectedly blame him," Wu Hai suddenly said to Ma Wei with a frown.

"Well..." Ma Wei was a little embarrassed. After all, he not only back bit his superior but also gave him an awkward nickname.

"I'm sorry but I'm just saying it casually. It has nothing to do with you and of course I am not talking to you," Wu Hai took a look at Ma Wei quite discontentedly and then said straightforwardly.

After saying that, he directly walked out of the restaurant, giving Ma Wei no time to retort.

Wu Hai had drunk liquor together with Wu Anlu for quite a few times. His thought was to cultivate his own staff and enable them to undertake the tasks alone as a chief in the future.

The slang of "regarding a goodwill as a malice" well applied to Wu Anlu, who was cursed by one of his staff behind his back.

Many people looked down upon seniors as they thought they were old-fashioned and inflexible. However, if the principles included gratitude in return, the young really should learn from the seniors.

Passing by the door, Wu Hai saw the only rule hanging outside the restaurant by chance. This sign was nevertheless the voiceless communication between two persons that had never talked with each other.

Wu Hai looked at the sign and then at Ma Wei who was talking ceaselessly in the restaurant and headed back to his art studio after a smile of contempt.

Because his versatile broker Zheng Jiawei had left, Wu Hai had only to buy the vegetables personally. However, as an artist, he naturally didn't find any difficulty in doing such trifles such as buying vegetables.

Therefore, Yuan Zhou saw some strange raw dishes that were packed together when he went to his room in the afternoon.

"What are you going to do by buying the asparagus and broccoli and putting them together?" Yuan Zhou pointed at the two different vegetables and then asked him curiously.

Yuan Zhou indicated that he was really just curious. It definitely wasn't because he wanted to choke this mentally retarded guy to death.

"Asparagus Soup and Stir-Fried Broccoli," Wu Hai answered wittily.

"Alright. Then what do you say about this?" Yuan Zhou asked him while pointing at a big bunch of coriander.

"It's very fresh. See, there's even the soil on the root," Wu Hai stroked his small mustache and said earnestly.

"It's indeed fresh. You can just eat it raw tonight then," Yuan Zhou also said with a quite earnest tone.

"No, not necessary. Isn't it used to season the dishes?" Wu Hai indicated that he knew about it.

"Ho Ho. Let me teach you the last two dishes. You learn

attentively," Yuan Zhou was too lazy to talk nonsense to Wu Hai, therefore he pointed at the coriander and said.

"Are you making the soup with the asparagus?" Wu Hai said with curiosity.

"Humm," Yuan Zhou nodded the head.

"That's good," Wu Hai nodded with relief. Actually, he really didn't know it was called asparagus when he bought it. He just felt the vegetable looked good and was fresh, hence bought it.

Freshness mattered the most to the vegetables. That was apparently known by Wu Hai.

As a grandmaster of culinary skills, Yuan Zhou was definitely adhering to the principle of "never demonstrating by hand if oral instructions could solve the problem" when he instructed Wu Hai.

It was good that Yuan Zhou had used artful methods to correct Wu Hai's awareness of colors; therefore he needn't worry that Wu Hai would add the dyestuff to adjust the colors impulsively when he cooked a single vegetable dish.

"What's edible in the asparagus are only the 1cm part on the top and the 1.5cm part in the middle. Get rid of all the remaining parts," Yuan Zhou started to instruct Wu Hai to process the vegetables.

"Add some garlic to sauce the dish. You can only crush the garlic with the knife, but not to cut it. Otherwise, the taste will be affected," Yuan Zhou told him some tips every time he instructed Wu Hai to cook something. It was only Wu Hai who didn't care about these tips because he was a painter. If it were another chef, he would surely bring some notebook with him to take notes.

While Yuan Zhou was teaching Wu Hai to cook over here, Jiang Changxi was making a call on the other side.

"Master Bai, aren't you working today?" Jiang Changxi didn't see the cab that she took usually when she got out of the restaurant.

"Hey, it's Little Jiang. I drank some wine today and hence didn't go to work." From the other end of the phone came the voice of Master Bai, which showed that he was quite happy.

"You are so happy." Jiang Chang asked curiously.

"Yeah, absolutely. My wife allowed me to go to Fang Family Pub to drink some wine with the old friends. The taste of the wine was so marvelous," Master Bai said while continuously recollecting the aftertaste.

"How can the wine of Fang Family Pub compare with Boss Yuan's liquor? Let me treat you to a cup some other day," Jiang Changxi said smilingly.

"Next time," Master Bai answered smilingly.

"What? Are you afraid of your wife blaming you?" Jiang Changxi joked.

"Aha. Let's talk about it when it's available." Just by smelling the liquor, he understood how good the one served in Yuan Zhou's restaurant was. Of course, he wanted to have a try.

"Ok, talk to you later," after saying that, Jiang Changxi hung off the phone.

"This drunkard doesn't even earn money in order to drink," Jiang Changxi shook her head with a smile and then took another cab without thinking of anything.

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Chapter 221: Mu Xiaoyun's Small Wish

In the afternoon, Wu Hai finally made some progress under Yuan Zhou's instructions. He learned to cook the stir-fried vegetables and the barely qualified asparagus soup.

"How do you like my dishes? The color and appearance are good, right?" Wearing a laced apron, Wu Hai stroked his small mustache and said complacently.

"The vegetable dish is qualified to eat while the asparagus soup is barely edible." Yuan Zhou spoke straightforwardly every time without any euphemistic words.

"Well, alright." While stroking his small mustache, Wu Hai's hand was askew when he heard that.

"But it's enough for you to eat." Yuan Zhou said unhurriedly.

"Ok. If so, I ought to leave now." Wu Hai looked at the art studio that had been almost cleared up and suddenly said.

"Humm." Yuan Zhou indicated with a nod that he heard him .

"Time is almost up. I'm leaving to prepare the dinner," Yuan Zhou looked at the watch and said suddenly.

"Ok. Goodbye." Said Wu Hai.

"Humm, see you next time." Yuan Zhou answered with a nod and then walked out of the art studio.

The dinner went on smoothly. Mu Xiaoyun likewise did her work dutifully and appeared quite happy. Not until the dinner time ended did Yuan Zhou get to know the reason.

"Boss, thank you for your care for the last two months." After all the customers left, Mu Xiaoyun suddenly walked to Yuan Zhou and said gratefully.

"You are welcome." Yuan Zhou was a little puzzled about Mu Xiaoyun's words, but these few words weren't wrong.

"There are only three days left before I go to school. So, I want to resign, boss." Mu Xiaoyun lowered her head and said with embarrassment.

Yuan Zhou was slightly shocked for an instant. Then he recalled it was Aug 25th today and was indeed the date to go to school.

"Humm, no problem. When are you leaving?" Yuan Zhou took a look at Mu Xiaoyun who had been waiting for his answer and then said with a normal tone.

"I can wait another two days so Boss you can find somebody else to replace me. Otherwise, you will be busier than ever." Mu Xiaoyun frowned and appeared rather concerned, with her usually

lovable look.

"Never mind. Attending school is more important." Looking at the little girl in front of him, Yuan Zhou said with apparent care.

"But your restaurant is also very important." Mu Xiaoyun said firmly.

"Alright. You just work until you feel it's ok. Tomorrow I will post the recruitment form. I still kept the previous one." It was rare for Yuan Zhou to say more words than usual right now.

"Humm, ok. Boss, I want to treat people to a meal." Mu Xiaoyun paused for a while and then said.

"What do you want me to do?" Yuan Zhou knew that Mu Xiaoyun was a sensible girl. By saying that, she surely wasn't asking for a free meal. She should have some special requirements on the taste.

"No, no. Boss, your dishes are the best." Mu Xiaoyun waved her hands continuously, indicating she wasn't suspicious about Yuan Zhou's craftsmanship.

"It doesn't matter. Tell me who you are gonna treat." Yuan Zhou said calmly.

"My family members and my brother." When Mu Xiaoyun spoke of her family members, she revealed a delighted smiling face.

Instantly, Yuan Zhou understood why she came out to work. Her brother might have worked for fun or for other purposes, but Mu Xiaoyun definitely worked in order to treat her family members to eat here.

"Boss, I know you have never revealed the menu for the next day, but I just want to know what dishes will be served tomorrow so that I can make an appointment with my dad, mom and my brother." Mu Xiaoyun made a long speech to explain her purpose as she felt slightly embarrassed about her request.

She never asked about that during normal times. When people in the gourmet backup group asked her about the dishes for tomorrow, she also didn't help, but now she had to ask about that by herself. That made her a little uncomfortable.

"Are you preparing to treat them during the afternoon or in the evening?" Yuan Zhou took a look at the menu.

"Can I treat them in the evening?" Mu Xiaoyun knew the opening hours in the evening were longer, hence asked.

"No problem. All the dishes in the menu are available tomorrow. You just order whatever you like." Yuan Zhou nodded the head affirmatively.

"Thank you, boss. I will have to bother you to prepare. I'm leaving now." Mu Xiaoyun leaped up happily, but soon she realized that this was not good. Therefore, she stood still immediately and

left obediently after saying thanks to him.

Not until Mu Xiaoyun walked out of the door did Yuan Zhou sighed with emotion, "September is really a time of departure."

As a result, he had to make preparations now for some dishes that required advance preparations. "There are still twenty minutes left." Yuan Zhou looked at the clock and found there was still some time that he could make good use of before the pub opened .

In the sound of flowing water, Yuan Zhou took out the eggs and made preparations quickly with different materials in both hands. He took the ingredients for Spiced Egg with one hand and the ingredients for Tea Egg with the other.

When the fragrance of the two different ingredients slightly blended, it emitted a strong but elegant taste, which was very pleasant to smell.

Without any customers on site, Yuan Zhou brought his superb culinary skills into play thoroughly. He moved so quickly that people could hardly see it clearly. The knife skills were used like the scene in the animated cartoons. With the miraculous kitchen knife quickly moving up and down, he finished cutting the flavorings required.

The work was barely finished in twenty minutes. Upon entering the restaurant, the customers who came for liquor caught sight of Yuan Zhou covering the pot.

"Boss Yuan, what are you busy with? Is there any dish to go with wine?" This was Dong Dong who cared most about the dishes with wine. This time, he turned up at the restaurant alone.

"I'm just preparing the ingredients." Said Yuan Zhou concisely.

"Is it for the dish with wine?" Asked Dong Dong persistently.

"His meaning is quite obvious. It's that this dish isn't prepared for you." Said Fang Heng. He walked slowly into the restaurant with an aged man.

"What do you know? Boss Yuan is such a nice person and he will definitely prepare the dishes with wine." Dong Dong flattered Yuan Zhou in a way that he believed it was not obvious.

"I don't think Boss Yuan is preparing the dishes with wine, either. Why not tell us what you have prepared?" With an ironic smile, Jiang Changxi looked at Dong Dong who was empty-handed.

"Fine. I didn't bring any, but I can eat yours?" Dong Dong said deservedly.

"Everybody, the pub is open for service now. Please come on in." Yuan Zhou washed his hands before going up to greet them.

Yuan Zhou had basically got everything prepared at this side. Although Mu Xiaoyun had no idea about that, she trusted Yuan Zhou very much. As soon as she went back home, the first thing she did was to make calls.

"Du..Du.. Du..", there passed the sound of the phone waiting to be answered. During the process, Mu Xiaoyun's white and tender face was filled with some expectations as well as helplessness.

"Mum, I will wait for you at the Taoxi Road tomorrow evening. Could you come and have dinner together?" Once the call was answered, Mu Xiaoyun spoke out her own purpose straightforwardly without reservation. All the words that she had thought over previously were just forgotten.

"Yunyun, you are going to school in no time. You should come back now. When am I going to pick you up?" From the other end of the phone passed a gentle and pleasant female voice. However, she didn't answer Mu Xiaoyun's question.

"Mum, you must agree to come to have dinner first." Mu Xiaoyun acted cutely to her mother.

"Is it dinner?" After a long silence, her mother asked.

"Humm, yes, only the dinner. Besides, the boss cooks awfully delicious dishes. You will like to eat them for sure." When Mu Xiaoyun noticed her mother tended to agree, she said happily.

"Alright. I will wait for you at the crossing of Taoxi Road at 5:00 p.m. tomorrow. Take care on the way there." With the pleasant voice, her mother instructed her carefully. Only after that did she hang off the phone.

"Don't worry, mum. I can take good care of myself." Mu Xiaoyun said delightedly.

Seeing that her plan was half accomplished, Mu Xiaoyun revealed a smiling face and prepared to overcome the final difficulty. As for her brother Mu Xiaojie, he had long been looking forward to going there, thus she needn't worry about him.

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Chapter 222: Weird People and Odd Happenings

What Mu Xiaoyun thought was quite simple. As long as her parents got together to have dinner, they would have something to talk about, wouldn't they?

"Dong Dong Dong," Mu Xiaoyun went downstairs with quick footsteps and happened to bump into her brother Mu Xiaojie at the corner.

"What are you running so fast for?" Mu Xiaojie held on Xiaoyun.

"Brother, I have something to say to dad." Xiaoyun took off her brother's hand and said while pouting.

"What's the matter, little girl?" Mu Xiaojie reached out to grab Xiaoyun's ponytail again smilingly.

"Stop it. Brother, aren't you expecting to have meals in my boss's restaurant? We are going there tomorrow. I'm going to talk to dad now concerning that." Mu Xiaoyun rolled her big eyes and said something that Mu Xiaojie was interested in.

"Great. I'm going with you." Once he heard of the delicious dishes, Mu Xiaojie pulled Mu Xiaoyun downstairs quickly.

Mu Xiaoyun looked at her brother and didn't oppose him

anymore this time. She then followed her brother to the main hall on the first floor obediently, thinking that he might be able to help to persuade her father. However, nobody was in the main hall at that time.

"Dad, where are you?" Mu Xiaoyun shouted loudly when he got there.

"What are you shouting in the very evening? Don't be noisy." A man walked into the main hall from the courtyard and said harshly with his mild voice. He was dressed in a well-cut handmade casual suit and was wearing a pair of rimless glasses, with a neatly combed hair.

"I have something to tell you. Dad, let's go to that boss's restaurant to eat tomorrow, ok? The dishes there are quite delicious. I have long been wanting to go there." Mu Xiaojie wasn't a composed person. Once he opened his mouth, he uttered a long sentence.

"I tell you to say things one after another every time. Why are you still so short-tempered?" The man didn't actually listen to Mu Xiaojie's utterance. Not caring about anything else, he just sat down with his back straight and upright.

"Dad." When Mu Xiaojie continued to say something, Mu Xiaoyun pulled the lower corner of his clothes gently at the side.

"What's wrong?" Mu Xiaojie looked back at her with puzzlement.

"Let me talk with dad about that." Mu Xiaoyun said softly.

Their father nevertheless just sat on the sofa and remained unmoved.

"Alright. You tell him." Mu Xiaojie shrugged. Although he wasn't afraid of his dad, he likewise couldn't bear the lukewarm way he talked

"Dad, I'm preparing to go back to mom's side since the school is starting. Could we get together and have dinner together tomorrow?" Mu Xiaoyun talked to her father with a more courteous manner rather than acting cutely when she was with her mum.

With his sharp eyes, the man stared straight at Mu Xiaoyun and agreed to her with a nod only after quite a while, "Ok, sure. What time?"

"5:00. Mum will also come." Mu Xiaoyun supplemented in a low voice.

"Humm, I got it." The man nodded the head, indicating that he had known that. Looking at his daughter, he found Mu Xiaoyun had grown up and had her own thoughts right now.

As her father, he had already seen through her daughter's intention. Since it was his daughter's wish, however, it didn't matter to merely have a meal.

"Then, I'm going upstairs to sleep, dad." Mu Xiaoyun pulled her brother's hand and ran upstairs happily.

Her brother was truly a time bomb. God knew what accident would happen if he stayed with their father.

After they got to the second floor, the brother and sister played and joked for a while before going back to their rooms to sleep.

The brother Mu Xiaojie was looking forward to the sumptuous dishes tomorrow evening while his sister Mu Xiaoyun expected to see the culinary skills of her boss conquer her parents and that her wish was fulfilled. Therefore, they both had a good sleep.

Although Yuan Zhou wasn't entrusted by anyone, he still prepared all the dishes on the price list dutifully until dawn. Only after that did he go to sleep. Then in the early morning, he got up to jog again before preparing breakfast.

Mu Xiaoyun was quite happy today. For the whole morning, there was a smile on her face. During the lunch time, she even appeared happier than she was in the morning and kept smiling all along as the dinner time approached nearer.

As usual, the customers waited in a long line outside the restaurant to have lunch at the noontime. As it was hot, each of them looked forward to getting their own turn.

On the contrary, the temperature inside of Yuan Zhou's restaurant was just fine. God knew how Boss Yuan set the air-conditioner, it was nevertheless cool and comfortable. No matter how long they stayed inside, they wouldn't feel hot.

In a little while, however, there were discussions in a low voice in the crowd.

"Look at the front of you, at the section near the entrance." A customer who was wearing a sunhat suddenly touched the arm of the person behind him.

"What's wrong?" The customer, who was dressed in a white shirt and had the sleeves rolled up to the arm, happened to feel bored. Hearing the man in front of him say that, he obediently looked forward at the line, but found nothing special.

"It's the aged man who's dressed in a white and shabby vest with gray slacks over there." The sunhat customer winked at him furtively.

The white-shirt customer looked at the aged man carefully and found that he was almost bald and was standing there still with his back facing them right now. The white vest on his body was baggy and shabby while the gray slacks likewise looked dim in color. From his appearance, he didn't seem to be a person who could afford the dishes here.

But so what? The white-shirt customer looked at the sunhat customer and revealed an expression of suspicion.

"This person comes once every week. Every time he waits in line for his turn obediently. But when he goes into the restaurant, he doesn't eat anything but just stands by the side quietly. Then, five minutes later, he goes out with bothering anybody." The sunhat customer said in details.

"Then why does he wait in line to go inside?" The white-shirt customer asked curiously.

"Nobody knows about it." At that time, another customer in front of both of them joined in their discussions.

"I feel he probably only wants to watch. Perhaps, he wants to learn Boss Yuan's craftsmanship secretly." The customer behind was lost in his own fantasy.

"Of course not. Mu Xiaoyun has already asked him about that, but that person only smiled. He doesn't even talk. No one knows what exactly he wants to do." The sunhat customer shook the head and denied the guess of him learning the craftsmanship secretly.

He stood far from the kitchen and hence couldn't see what flavorings Yuan Zhou had added. Besides, he had never eaten the dishes. How did he know the taste?

"Then what exactly does he want to do? If he only watches Boss Yuan cook, he can directly go inside without the necessity to wait in line especially." Said the white-shirt customer.

"That's why I say it's strange." The customer in front of them chimed in.

While the several people were discussing heatedly , the person they were talking about got his turn.

As usual, he found a corner in the room and just stood there quietly, not speaking anything at all. With his eyes downcast, he didn't look at anybody else, but just stood there. As usual, Mu Xiaoyun didn't go up to greet him anymore.

Of course, this was an order by Yuan Zhou to leave him alone. After all, even Mu Xiaoyun's approaching could make this weird person fairly nervous.

Other customers that entered the restaurant with him looked at him curiously at first. When they found he didn't eat, the customer behind took the vacant seat immediately. Therefore, it was completely meaningless for this person to wait in line.

The aged man stood at the corner quietly. He watched the sergestes earnestly for a while and then watched Yuan Zhou cook as naturally as floating clouds and flowing water for another moment, but never had he looked at other customers dining there. It seemed that he only wanted to watch for the visual enjoyment of the delicious dishes.

Once five minutes passed, the aged man walked out of Yuan Zhou's restaurant slowly with a slight humpback. His next arrival

might be a week later.

Chapter 223: Jinling Grass and Translucent Beef Slices

Except for the weird old man, the dinner went on smoothly.

"You don't need to come this afternoon. Just bring your parents to come for dinner," while cleaning the kitchen, Yuan Zhou said casually.

"Gee? But you will be too busy to care about the customers and business." Mu Xiaoyun asked curiously with her big eyes widely open.

"No problem. Go back now. It's very late." With a frown, Yuan Zhou directly tried to drive her away.

"Ok. Please pay me 50 RMB only today, boss. You can't give me more than that." Mu Xiaoyun thought for a while and said affirmatively.

"I've promised you 100 RMB per day." Yuan Zhou had always been firm in his opinions.

"Last time you said that you needed to pay me the full salary of 100 RMB because you had your own business and affected me working normally. But this time, it's me who has my own business and need to rest. So you should pay me the salary for half a day only." Said Mu Xiaoyun earnestly.

Looking carefully at the serious look on Mu Xiaoyun's face, Yuan Zhou realized he had truly said that and hence had to agree.

"Ok. Here you are." Yuan Zhou thought for a while and realized it was indeed so. Then he took out a green note of 50 RMB and handed it to Mu Xiaoyun.

"Thank you, boss. I'm leaving now and will come back tonight." Mu Xiaoyun received the money readily and then ran out of the restaurant happily.

"Humm." Yuan Zhou nodded the head. However, Mu Xiaoyun didn't actually hear him this time before she ran away happily.

However, Yuan Zhou cared little about that. He just continued to clear the slightly messy kitchen.

"I feel it looks better to be tidy and neat." After saying that, Yuan Zhou continued to clear it again.

As for what he was tidying up, it was quite obvious. At present, he had at least dozens of knives in different sizes and many spoons with different sizes and shapes. Yuan Zhou was just hanging all of them well, making sure they did not slightly sway.

When he finished, all the blades, knife edges and knife handles were all aligned in a horizontal straight line. The spoons were also placed in the same way.

So are the bowls and plates. When Yuan Zhou placed them into the dishwasher, the bowls and plates were placed neatly without any sticking out, even if the dishwasher didn't require that.

"This damn obsessive-compulsive disorder." After he finished placing all the dinnerware, Yuan Zhou found his god-damn obsessive-compulsive disorder got more severe and was beyond cure. For example, when he saw someone's shoestring untied in the street, he even wanted to go to tie it for them.

Fortunately, he didn't, otherwise, he would surely be taken for as an idiot. For him, however, an untied shoestring was likely to cause insecurities in the kitchen.

Yuan Zhou took a look at his shoestring subconsciously, but he had no time to care about that. Xiaoyun was going to leave and a new shop assistant was still nowhere to find.

"Dong Dong Dong", he went upstairs and searched for the recruitment notice used last time.

"This notice is really not bad since Xiaoyun is fairly earnest and dutiful." Having the dutiful and reliable girl Mu Xiaoyun as the role model, Yuan Zhou was rather confident with the contents of the recruitment notice.

Therefore, Yuan Zhou didn't modify any words at the part of recruitment requirements but just replaced the time requirement below with "Permanent Assistant Required Only". After that, he pasted it onto the door.

Yuan Zhou sat down on his seat and just waited there delightedly for people to come for an interview. The sketchy contents of the notice nevertheless stopped most of the job-seekers from going into the restaurant for an interview.

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For the whole afternoon, no one came to apply for the position. In order not to affect his business, Yuan Zhou took off the recruitment notice from the door at 4:30 p.m. following the established practice and prepared to do business.

At that time, Mu Xiaoyun and Mu Xiaojie arrived at the entrance of Yuan Zhou's restaurant together.

"Boss, here we are." Xiaoyun greeted Yuan Zhou with a smile.

Nevertheless, Mu Xiaojie was actually a little embarrassed. He said with shyness, "Good afternoon, boss."

"Humm. Come in and have a seat." Yuan Zhou nodded the head. On his solemn face, there wasn't any expression.

"Let me wait. You go inside to rest." Mu Xiaojie said with the demeanor of a gentleman.

"No, you go to rest, brother. I wait here for mom." In front of Mu

Xiaojie, Xiaoyun became a capricious little girl again.

"Alright." Mu Xiaojie knew it was his sister who was treating today and hence behaved obediently.

Mu Xiaojie walked into the restaurant and thought it would be a scene of Boss Yuan and him gazing at each other in speechless dismay. However, Yuan Zhou had been constantly busy with something with his back facing him. Immediately, Mu Xiaojie heaved a sigh of relief and took out his phone and then started to play games.

The first person that Mu Xiaoyun waited was her dad, Mu Chen.

"Xiaoyun." Mu Chen uttered first. As usual, he was well dressed.

"Dad, Brother is inside. I'm waiting for mom." Mu Xiaoyun said obediently.

"I'll wait here. You go inside and get seated." Mu Chen frowned and got a little discontented. It was unknown whether it was because his ex-wife was still not punctual as always or that his son didn't have much familial love to leave Xiaoyun alone outside to wait.

"Never mind. Dad, you must be tired from the work, so you go to rest now. Let me wait for mom," Mu Xiaoyun was short, thus she raised her head and said to her dad.

"No need. She probably needs another ten minutes. You go inside now," Mu Chen said persistently with a frown.

"Alright. Dad, do come in for dinner later." Mu Xiaoyun instructed her father again with an anxious manner.

After all, Mu Chen had done that once. After he promised to eat together, he nevertheless left without even telling them anything.

"Humm. I will." Mu Chen answered with a nod.

Not long after Mu Xiaoyun entered the restaurant, Fang Lianyun, the ex-wife of Mu Chen and the mother of Mu Xiaoyun and Mu Xiaojie walked gracefully close to them. She was wearing a well-cut, royal blue, one-piece dress and a pair of claret high-heeled shoes.

However, the appearance totally couldn't match the soft voice on the phone. She was definitely a mature woman which was proven by her face. Her lips were flaming and her eyes were deep and attractive. Mu Xiaoyun's dimples probably took after her mum, whose dimples flickered on the face as she was talking. It made her appear extraordinarily charming.

"Ah. You waited here personally. I'm really sorry." Fang Lianyi walked close to him in the high-heeled shoes and said without any apologetic tone.

"Humm. If not me, Xiaoyun would stand and wait here." Mu

Chen pointed out with no trace of politeness that he waited there because of his daughter.

"Tsk-tsk. You have still never changed." With a faint smile, Fang Lianyi said no more and directly walked into Yuan Zhou's restaurant.

"Mom." Mu Xiaoyun and Mu Xiaojie stood up and said in one voice.

"Hey, my sweet boy and girl. My daughter is treating today, right? I'm going to eat a lot." The voice of Fang Lianyi was still as soft as always. However, with her appearance, she only left an impression of straightforwardness and tolerance.

"Humm. Dad, you sit here." Mu Xiaoyun was rather crafty in arranging the seats.

She and Mu Xiaojie sat on both sides and their parents Mu Chen and Fang Lianyi got seated next to each other between the two kids, which appeared much more intimate.

"Humm." Ever since he showed up until now, Mu Chen had been frowning, but he didn't oppose Mu Xiaoyun's proposal.

Seeing their parents sat down intimately, the brother and sister who had reached an agreement beforehand then smiled to each other like two lovable little foxes.

"The business hours start in three minutes later." When Yuan Zhou saw Mu Xiaoyun and her family members get together, he said abruptly.

"Never mind. Let's review the menu first." Mu Xiaoyun answered quickly.

After all, she had already experienced the EQ of Yuan Zhou.

"Mom, dad, the menu is behind you on the wall. Please check." Mu Xiaoyun pointed at behind them and then said.

The several people turned their heads together while the two of them said in one voice coincidentally.

Fang Lianyi said, "Jinling Grass, Phoenix-Tail Prawns.....". Meanwhile, Mu Chen said, "Translucent Beef Slices, Silk Twined Rabbit, Sautéed Vermicelli with Spicy Minced Pork..."

When they realized the coincidence, they both fell silent at the same time and just waited for the other party to speak first.

However, the coincidence made eyes of the brother and sister glow and appear happier.

Chapter 224: Best Ending

The food preference of Fang Lianyi and Mu Chen could be described as totally different. Fang Lianyi liked the heavy taste of spiciness while Mu Chen liked bland and refreshing vegetable dishes, namely the taste of freshness.

The dishes ordered by both of them were apparently ordered for the other party. That's why Mu Xiaoyun and Mu Xiaojie were both happy.

After they spoke in one voice, their parents kept silent for an instant and went back to normal. This time, Fang Lianyi said first.

"Xiaoyun and Xiaojie, just order by yourselves whatever you like to eat," with her soft voice, Fang Lianyi said quite naturally without any embarrassment on her face.

"Humm, we'll order ours." Mu Xiaojie looked at Xiaoyun and said decisively.

"I'll eat whatever my brother orders." Mu Xiaoyun said obediently.

"The business time has arrived. It is now available to order dishes." Yuan Zhou always started business exactly on time. After he said that to Mu Xiaoyun and her family, he said it again to the customers who were waiting in line outside.

While Mu Xiaojie was thinking what to order, the customers outside likewise started to come in in succession.

"I'm not really used to having meals today without Xiaoyun's service," said a regular customer.

"Xiaoyun, you are also having dinner today, aren't you?" At that time, a customer with sharp eyes caught sight of Mu Xiaoyun.

"Humm. I'm treating my family to dinner. These are all my family members." Mu Xiaoyun stood up and made a brief introduction of her family.

"Thank you for your help and care while Xiaoyun worked here." Mu Chen also stood up and made some small talk with the customers.

When other customers waiting behind realized that Mu Xiaoyun was having dinner with her family members, they didn't go bother them anymore.

During the process, Mu Xiaojie also figured out what to order.

"Jinling Grass, Phoenix-Tail Prawn, Silk Twined Rabbit and also a plate of beef mince." what Mu Xiaoyun ordered was basically the selection of Fang Lianyi and Mu Chen just now.

"Mum, can I order the Watermelon Juice?" Mu Xiaojie looked at Fang Lianyi with an eager look.

The beverage is likely to be Mu Xiaojie's favorite. Without it, he just couldn't swallow his meals.

"Is the watermelon juice here freshly squeezed?" Even if Fang Lianyi wasn't living together with Mu Xiaojie, she knew the habits of her son and hence looked toward Mu Xiaoyun.

"Of course, mum. Only the innermost part is used to make the juice from the watermelon, which is said to be the best breed, with the price of over 200 RMB each one." Mu Xiaoyun said proudly.

"Great. Then you can order it." Fang Lianyi nodded her head with satisfaction.

Despite the consent of his mum, Mu Chen nevertheless frowned discontentedly and then gave a severe look at Mu Xiaojie. Since his mom was beside him and, moreover, gave him permission, Mu Xiaojie wasn't scared of his father's long face at all.

"Boss, get us four cups of watermelon juice and four bowls of plain rice, please." Mu Xiaoyun ordered the dishes happily.

"Alright. It's totally 3804 RMB." Yuan Zhou directly reported the price to them. After all, the rule here was payment first.

"Boss, the price is really not cheap." Fang Lianyi raised her eyebrows and looked at Yuan Zhou in surprise.

"No, not really. The dishes cooked by the boss are super yummy." Mu Xiaoyun first said to her mum earnestly and then lowered her head to draw out a stack of notes from her duckling backpack.

"Aha, this little girl even helps her boss to persuade us." Fang Lianjie couldn't help laughing while shaking her head.

"Xiaoyun, let me pay." Said Mu Chen suddenly.

"No, don't do that. Dad, this is the salary I have earned from working here and it's definitely sufficient for a meal." Mu Xiaoyun took the money in her hand and carried a look of stubbornness.

"Well, thank you, Xiaoyun." Mu Chen was stupefied for an instant. Then he nodded his head and said.

"Dad, mum, it's my pleasure. The boss truly has a superb craftsmanship. You'll be aware of it after eating the dishes. Right, brother?" Mu Xiaoyun handed the money to Yuan Zhou and then asked her brother for help.

"Definitely. My sister is speaking the truth," Said Mu Xiaojie immediately.

"Ok, ok. You decide." Fang Lianyi patted on the head of Mu Xiaoyun with a smile.

When she reached out her hand, she brushed past Mu Chen's cheek by chance. Fang Lianyi smiled to show her regret while Mu

Chen likewise just wiped his face and disregarded the careless touch.

Having received the orders, Yuan Zhou returned to the kitchen and started to cook the dishes. The spicy dishes were cooked with a fairly spicy taste while the bland dishes were cooked in a way to make the freshness and delicacy of the dish itself stand out.

While they were waiting for the dishes to be served, the family chatted happily and harmoniously. Mu Chen and Fang Lianyi talked and joked occasionally, making the atmosphere plain but warm. Seeing that, Mu Xiaojie and Mu Xiaoyun were extraordinarily delighted.

As a lively boy, Mu Xiaojie even made exaggerated actions to amuse them from time to time while Mu Xiaoyun uttered some caring words

"Here are the dishes for you." Yuan Zhou first served all the dishes ordered and laid them out in a line. The watermelon juice would follow afterward.

"They all looked good. Then let's start to eat now, shall we?" Looking at the dishes all over the table, Fang Lianyi said with a smile.

"Ok. Let's start now." Mu Xiaojie couldn't wait to reach out his chopsticks and started to eat.

Undoubtedly, Yuan Zhou was concerned about Mu Xiaoyun. When he saw the obvious expectations on Mu Xiaoyun's face, he only frowned and then continued with his work.

Halfway through dinner, when Mu Xiaoyun saw her family all love the dishes and never even set down the chopsticks, she said happily, "Dad, mum, could we eat together from now on?"

Once Mu Xiaoyun uttered the words, Both Fang Lianyi and Mu Chen paused a moment. Although Mu Chen just frowned and didn't say anything, the expression on his face was rather obvious.

Fang Lianyi directly picked up some vegetables from the dish of Jinling Grass that she had never taken.

She put them into her mouth and began to chew. Originally, she wanted to say that she couldn't eat bland and tasteless stuff like that; however, she was almost conquered by the fresh, fragrant, crisp and tender taste.

She pulled herself together and then said, "Xiaoyun, I have already told you before that one is unable to change their preferred taste. For example, I love spicy dishes while your dad loves bland dishes. The two different tastes cannot be neutralized, otherwise, we are no longer ourselves."

Mu Xiaoyun had already heard of the theory, but she didn't believe that. After all, Wu Hai liked to eat meat dishes so much, but he still ordered Jinling Grass or Phoenix-Tail Prawns every time. And even if he liked spicy dishes, he ordered Clear Broth

Noodle Soup. She believed that one's taste preference could be altered.

"Mom, you are dishonest. Obviously you loved the taste of the Jinling Grass when you ate it just now," Mu Xiaoyun said persistently.

"Definitely. Dad, you should also try the spicy Translucent Beef Slices." Without any explanation, Mu Xiaojie picked up one slice of beef, as thin as paper, and placed it into Mu Chen's bowl.

"I never eat spicy dishes," Mu Chen said solemnly.

"Dad, you teach me not to waste anything. Just have a try," Mu Xiaoyun said persistently.

"Ok, fine." Mu Chen felt rather helpless and could only agree.

With a frown showing vertical wrinkles, Mu Chen gulped down the beef slice. He had originally thought that he would not be able to withstand the spiciness, but never had he expected that the spicy and hot, fresh and fragrant taste instantly erupted in his taste buds. The beef was soft and tender and was quite delicious. Therefore, he gulped it down very easily, leaving only the pungent burning sensation in his mouth that could give people a terrific feeling.

"It's great," Mu Chen said affirmatively.

"See? Dad can also eat the spicy dishes now." Mu Xiaoyun said happily while pointing at Mu Chen.

After hesitating for a while, Fang Lianyi said, "Xiaoyun, not every chef has such superb craftsmanship as your boss. Do you understand?"

"Mum, do you still disagree?" As a smart and sensitive girl, Mu Xiaoyun asked directly.

"Xiaoyun, we'll come here every year for your birthday and your brother's." Mu Chen looked at his son and daughter and said that.

The brother and sister hesitated for a while and agreed to the compromised method of their parents.

Not everything had a good ending and not everything went towards the satisfactory direction.

In spite of that, Mu Xiaoyun and Mu Xiaojie wouldn't give up their hope...

Chapter 225: Gathering Place for Weird People

Mu Xiaoyun didn't achieve her own goal but she saw the possibility of accomplishing it. Therefore, she became more active during the last two days of working there. She felt that if her boss didn't cook so well, she wouldn't even have the opportunity to meet her parents together.

The weather had been nice recently. An oddly dressed girl was walking in the street. Every passerby would basically turn their heads and take a look at her.

After all, the clothing was definitely weird in some adults' opinions. However, there were also some people who took photos of her with their phones. At those moments, the girl would make a lovable pose and let it go.

Yuan Zhou was preparing the ingredients required in the evening quietly in the restaurant when a casual voice came into his hearing.

"Boss Liu, Boss Liu, I'm here again." A girl that was totally unknown to Yuan Zhou ran into the restaurant.

"Sorry, it's non-business hours now." Yuan Zhou looked at the girl in front of him calmly when he heard his name being wrongly called again.

"Boss Liu, it's me. Don't you know me?" The girl stared straight at Yuan Zhou with a pair of green big eyes.

"I'm sorry. I don't know," Yuan Zhou had a rare moment of hesitation before saying.

He had actually already recognized whom the girl was. She was the one that had been to his restaurant for several times in a sailor suit and had mistaken him as Liu Maoxing. Under such circumstances, however, it should be better to say he didn't know her.

The young girl was dressed in a yellow single-breasted coat with a stand-up collar and two long sleeves; the inside of the sleeves that were rolled up was made of white inner liner. She was also wearing a pair of pinkish purple cotton pants and a blue waist strap around her waist. On the head was the long hair that was tied into a high ponytail.

As the girl leaped forward, her long hair swayed to the left and right, making her appear pretty and cute. In spite of that, the style of dressing was extremely familiar. Apparently, she was dressed like the role of Mei Li, namely Du Du, in the animated cartoon of Cooking Master Boy.

"It doesn't matter. Boss Liu, I want to take a photo with you. Can I?" The young girl gazed at Yuan Zhou pitifully with her big eyes that had green contact lens.

"No." Yuan Zhou refused flatly, not showing mercy to this pretty

girl.

"Boss Liu, please don't do that. I merely want to take a photo." The young girl clasped her hands together and made a gesture of "Please".

"My surname is Yuan and I never had any ancestors that had the surname of Liu," said Yuan Zhou abruptly.

"I believe that a man who makes the Golden Fried Rice is the Cooking Master Boy in reality." Said the girl with a determined tone.

"Thank you, but my surname is Yuan." Yuan Zhou tried to correct the way she read his name.

"Just forget about it. Boss Liu, come on, let's take a photo." While saying, the girl brought out a DSLR camera from nowhere and prepared to take photos.

"Apologies but I don't like it." Yuan Zhou reached out his hand to block the camera lens and stopped her.

"Come on. Boss, please. I want to attend the Anime Expo at the southwest region and need some photos." The girl seemed to realize suddenly that she hadn't told him why she wanted to do so, hence brought out the reason.

After telling him the reason, she went around Yuan Zhou's table

again and again with an expression of anxiety.

"How long have you been dressed like that?" Suddenly, Yuan Zhou asked an unrelated question.

"I wear the clothes every time I go out. It's beautiful, isn't it?" Speaking of the clothes on her body, the girl spoke excitedly.

Yuan Zhou felt he might have truly become old. Was he asking if the clothes were good-looking just now? Why did the young girl answer him like that? He really wanted to support his forehead to express his curiosity.

"Cough, cough, cough", Yuan Zhou especially coughed a little to interrupt the girl's ceaseless introduction where the clothes came from, how she managed to get them and how she dressed up.

"Boss Liu, you finally agreed," the girl stopped talking and said hopefully.

"Only 1 photo. Take it or leave it." After a nod, Yuan Zhou brought out his condition.

"3?" The girl reached out 3 fingers to Yuan Zhou while Yuan Zhou looked at her determinedly with an expressionless face.

"2?" The girl reached out 2 fingers this time persistently.

However, Yuan Zhou just gazed at her quietly without any hint of agreeing.

"Alright. 1 photo, 1 photo." Taking the DSLR camera, the girl began to look for appropriate position carefully.

As for Yuan Zhou, he just crossed his arms on the chest with a solemn face and didn't intend to smile. Fortunately, the girl wasn't really picky with his expression. After all, Yuan Zhou had always been thinking that he was an aloof god when he wasn't smiling.

The girl nevertheless used a tactful method. She first took a photo of Yuan Zhou alone carefully and then of herself at the approximate place.

Afterwards, two photos were taken.

"Thank you, Boss Liu. I'm leaving and will publicize for your restaurant." The girl then took the camera and walked out of the restaurant delightedly.

"Humm." Yuan Zhou nodded. However, he wasn't really hopeful about her publicity.

As soon as the chirping girl left, the restaurant immediately became quiet. "Hu", Yuan Zhou let out a long sigh and began to continue doing his own work of preparing the dishes.

However, the day was destined to be not peaceful and quiet. In

less than two minutes, Wu Hai walked into the restaurant.

"Boss Yuan, you are still busy with your work." It was rare that Wu Hai wore a pair of formal light blue leather shoes instead of slippers this time and was dressed in a cotton linen casual short sleeves, appearing more decent and formal.

"Humm. What's the matter?" Yuan Zhou asked bluntly.

"Gee? You really are inconsiderate," Wu Hai sat down casually and complained impulsively while stroking his mustache.

"Not to you." Yuan Zhou said earnestly.

"What's the matter with that girl who's dressed in pants and long sleeves just now?" Having automatically neglected Yuan Zhou's unfriendly answer, Wu Hai asked about the scene that he saw while walking downstairs.

"Just taking a photo." Yuan Zhou's answer was concise and comprehensive.

"I'm afraid the temperature is up to 39 degrees. Are the girls nowadays not only tolerant of frost but also of heat?" Wu Hai stroked his small mustache and revealed a look of admiration.

"It's truly too hot. I don't understand, either." Yuan Zhou agreed to him with a nod. He indeed saw the sweat flowing down behind the ears of the girl just now.

No one really knew about the charm of cosplay. Apart from the expenses borne by herself, she also had to endure the high temperature in summer. However, this girl really gave it her all. Anyway, Yuan Zhou didn't have that endurance like the girl.

"It's merely a hobby." Wu Hai then changed the subject suddenly. "I'm leaving and will be back two months later."

"I have already known that." Yuan Zhou nodded the head. Since this guy had mentioned that for several times, he naturally knew that.

"What I mean is I'm leaving today." Wu Hai emphasized.

"Yeah, I see you are wearing pants." Said Yuan Zhou while nodding his head.

"You are talking as if I have never wore pants before." Wu Hai felt rather helpless towards Yuan Zhou's speaking skills.

"No, you didn't. You were always wearing short trousers." Yuan Zhou nodded primly.

"Let's stop talking the nonsense. Anyway, thank you for your dishes. I will probably have to cook by myself for the two months out there." Wu Hai indicated that he choked on Yuan Zhou's words. After calming down, he stood up and walked to the door and then said matter-of-factly.

"Good-bye." Yuan Zhou said lightly.

This time, it's contrarily Wu Hai who waved his hand and left determinedly without even turning the head. Despite the seemingly elegant manner, he nevertheless murmured in a low voice, "Sh*t. Why couldn't I pack Boss Yuan up and bring him with me? I'm going to become a rabbit that will eat vegetables everyday if I leave like that."

Autumn was said to be the season for parting. As if it were to prove that, both Mu Xiaoyun and Wu Hai left when it was still hot.

Only after Wu Hai left did Yuan Zhou feel slightly relieved and then begin to prepare the dishes for the dinner.

"It's so hot now. I should prepare some new dishes." Yuan Zhou said to himself.

Chapter 226: A New Dish

Yuan Zhou's idea was quite practical. Besides, he always thought of himself as an awfully considerate boss. His customers deserved some pastries that can be eaten cold in such a climate.

Therefore, Yuan Zhou received the new snack decisively and prepared to try doing that.

"The pastry is fairly interesting." Yuan Zhou wasn't clear about each dish either. Only after he received it did he know about it.

However, It was destined to be an extraordinary day today. Somebody came to apply for the vacant position, which was well-received by Yuan Zhou.

This time, there were two people at a time for the interview. In sequence, they started to make their self-introductions.

"Nice to meet you, boss. My name is Shen Min and I'm from the university town nearby. I am a freshman this year and major in costume studies. You are recruiting attendants, aren't you?" The girl was dressed plainly with a white T-shirt, blue jeans, and a pair of white clean canvas shoes. Apparently, she was a girl who loved cleanliness.

"Yes, I am. Have you ever worked before?" Anyhow, Yuan Zhou had also applied for jobs by himself after graduation and hence had no problem in asking a few question.

"Yes, I have. I work every summer vacation and have been to restaurants, clothing store, and supermarkets, etc." Shen Min pinched her palm with a slightly nervous tone. Her voice was clean and clear.

"Humm, that's great. Is there any problem with the working hours? I need someone who can work at night." After thinking for a while, Yuan Zhou felt he still needed an attendant to work in the pub at night.

"Night shift is no problem for me, but I have to go to class during the day, except for the weekends when I can come to work all day long." Said Shen Min eagerly.

"How many days can you come per week?" Yuan Zhou asked the most important question.

"I can come for night shift every day and work all day long at weekends. But for others, well, eh..." Shen Min lowered her head with a little embarrassment, her voice becoming lower and lower.

She was desperate for a job. However, as the course in the freshman year wasn't as easy as those in the second year, third year or final year, she didn't have any spare time to work five days per week.

Nevertheless, Yuan Zhou offered a very high salary of 100 RMB every day, therefore Shen Min still decided to come in and have a try after hanging about the door for quite a while.

"You wait a moment, please." Yuan Zhou didn't refuse Shen Min immediately.

"What about you?" Yuan Zhou pointed to the boy behind Shen Min and asked.

"Me?" The boy was dressed in a light blue coat and beige pants and appeared to be a lively person. When he heard Yuan Zhou's question, he pointed at himself first before answering him.

"My name is Hu Kai and I'm twenty years old. I'm looking for a constant employment now. Formerly, I worked in a western restaurant." Hu Kai stood straight and earnestly made a self-introduction.

"Thank you. You can go." Yuan Zhou considered for a while and then refused.

"Gee? Why?" Hu Kai was a little puzzled. The girl in front of him obviously didn't conform to the recruitment requirements. Why didn't the boss hire him?

"Who do you think would like to see two men stay together and talk nonsense everyday?" said Yuan Zhou suddenly.

"Well.... Er..." Hu Kai understood what Yuan Zhou meant only after thinking quite a while.

"Alright." Luckily Hu Kai didn't really care about that. He just shrugged the shoulders, turned around and then left.

"Your problem is clear to me now. But I need an attendant who works all the time." Said Yuan Zhou primly to Shen Min who stayed.

"Ok, I got it, boss." Shen Min answered with a nod, knowing he was about to refuse her.

"But if you can get a person who comes to work from Monday to Friday, you'll be hired." However, Yuan Zhou agreed to Shen Min's application in the next breath.

"Are you serious?" Shen Min raised her head and asked in surprise.

"Humm. Salary will be settled once per week. Every week, you can get 1300 RMB and can split it with your partner." Yuan Zhou nodded and stated the payment of the salary.

"Thanks, boss. I will definitely get that person. Don't worry. Shall I bring that person here tonight?" Shen Min was so happy that she almost bowed to Yuan Zhou. She appeared to be deeply moved by this kind boss.

"No need. You bring him here at 7:30 tomorrow morning." Yuan Zhou made an early appointment.

"Ok. Don't worry, boss. I promise to bring someone here tomorrow." Shen Min clasped the hands together and guaranteed.

"Humm, it's done." Yuan Zhou indicated that he had finished and she could leave now.

"Goodbye, boss. Thank you." Shen Min shrewdly reacted and said goodbye to him right away.

"Bye." Yuan Zhou nodded the head.

Shen Min walked out the restaurant steadily and only got excited after some distance. She leaped and muttered to herself, "That's great. I finally found a satisfactory job."

Having settled the recruitment issue, Yuan Zhou walked out and tore the recruitment notice down from the door.

He carefully folded the notice in case he would use it again in future.

He raised the head and looked at the time, "There are still one and half hours left. It's supposed to be sufficient." After a nod, Yuan Zhou turned around and pulled down the door with a sound of "Hua La".

Then, he sighed with emotion, "It's finally quiet now."

Now that he had time, he could settle down to study making the Colored Small Pastry carefully.

The most urgent matter was naturally the selection of the ingredients while the most important one was certainly the selection of the glutinous rice, which happened to be a breed that wasn't lacked in China.

Yuan Zhou searched around in the kitchen and as expected saw the fairly conspicuous words of Glutinous Rice written beside the cabinet of rice.

"Does the glutinous rice have any advantages?" Yuan Zhou asked curiously.

After all, the glutinous rice must be the best to make the most qualified pastry, as was introduced in the recipe.

The system displayed, "The area where it is produced is to the south of the central part of China and the north of Dongting Lake. It's surrounded on three sides, the east, west and north, by mountains. In the central part of this place is the Jiangnan Plain that's regarded as the "land of fish and rice", where the Changjiang River and its largest tributary, Hangjiang River lies. The rivers have moistened the land of the ancient 'Chu Kindom' and the abundant water brings about a great number of water networks and numerous lakes. The hilly area in the northeast of Hubei Province is dominated by low hills, where the hypsographic feature is mild and the cleuch between hills spacious. The soil is quite thick and is suitable for the development of agriculture and forestry....."

"Wait. What I need to know is the glutinous rice, not the introduction of the geographic surroundings." Yuan Zhou supported his forehead helplessly. Why did the agreed acting cool become the popularization of theories on geography? It was simply a torture for Yuan Zhou who could only get a score of 40 on the subject of geography. The system introduced the place in such details as if Yuan Zhou were able to find the place.

The system displayed, "I'm telling the host the geographic surroundings required to plant the glutinous rice."

Not knowing why, Yuan Zhou felt his usual solemnity from the words displayed by the system.

"Alright. I have known the geographic surroundings quite well. You can talk about the glutinous rice now." Yuan Zhou pinched the translucent glutinous rice, of which the luster was like the jade.

The system displayed, "According to the circumstances, this place has an excellent geographic surroundings and is most suitable for planting the glutinous rice. The system has selected the ancient breed that is highly edible and the official value as written in the ancient materia medica. The yield is low while the quality is very high. The glutinous rice is suitable for most people to eat."

"Alright, I'm fully convinced of that." Yuan Zhou was forced to read a lot of introductions to geography, hence was lost in a daze. Only after pulling himself together did he begin preparing to process the glutinous rice.

As the glutinous rice had all been screened by the system, Yuan Zhou only took out a bamboo basket and made a secondary screening. Then he started to make the preliminary glutinous rice flour.

Yuan Zhou rolled the stone mill patiently with a uniform velocity in order to grind the uniform flour, making the stone mill emit a sound of "Zhiya, Zhiya".

A foodie without patience was not a good big eater.

Chapter 227: Colored Pastry

While the stone mill was rotating at a uniform velocity with a sound of "Zhiya Zhiya", the fragrance of the glutinous rice flour slightly spread out. Nevertheless, it was far from enough. Yuan Zhou rolled it for another 4 circles and then grounded the glutinous rice into the thin flour.

"How fragrant the glutinous rice is!" Since Yuan Zhou was wearing the face mask, his voice sounded a little hollow.

The fragrance of the glutinous rice had been fully grounded by the stone mill out of the flour while Yuan Zhou rolled the stone mill in a way that could contain all the fragrance in the flour.

As a matter of fact, the pastry was very simple to make. It was merely making the flour into paste and then steaming it until it was well-cooked, or making the flour into wet starch and then steaming it. The problem was that this method was a little difficult and an ordinary novice wasn't able to master it.

Another way was that people could make the flour into a dough, cut it into small pieces, and then cook it by steaming or boiling. They could also roast them in the modern oven. All these were the methods that could be used as civilization progressed.

The pastry actually had a very long history and various varieties. It could be traced back as early as the Northern and Southern Dynasties. The popularity of the pastry could then be seen.

There were particular pastries in the 12 solar terms of the ancient Chinese calendar. Divided by categories, there were birthday pastries or cake for the birthday party of the aged; the honey cake or pastries for the daughters that were to be married; the haircut pastries and the celebration pastries for one-month-old infants and one-year-old kids; the flat pastries for the children's entrance to a school; the Dingsheng pastry for setting the roof beams in place and the housewarming party. It had so many varieties that one could hardly list all of them.

What Yuan Zhou was cooking today was the colored pastry, of five colors in particular. They were dark reddish purple, bright orange, dark green, snowy white and rose. The flavors were naturally different from each other.

There was a certain particular sequence to make the pastry in each color. Yuan Zhou selected to make the pure white pastry to start with, therefore he had to make the stuffing of it beforehand.

While Yuan Zhou was busy cooking in the kitchen, Shen Min, likewise, didn't idle at all. Out of the side street was a bus stop board, where she stood and waited for the bus to the university town.

During the time, Shen Min took out an old used Nokia and began to make a call.

Currently, young people basically used the iPhones while fans of China-made goods used Xiaomi or Huawei phones. Only Shen Min was still using the old and used Nokia, which was so hard that it could be used to smash walnuts.

For this reason, she was even teased by her roommates.

"Min Min, are you using the Nokia to defend yourself?" The girl who was asking said curiously.

"You are wrong. Even if Min Min wants to defend herself, she should use the newly-marketed Nokia phone, which is pentagon shaped." Another girl at the side followed.

"Pentagon? What exactly is the phone like?" The girl who first asked became astounded. Including Shen Min, all of them looked at this classmate with curiosity.

"It's a kind of irregular pentagon with a pointed right angle. With the quality of Nokia, the phone can definitely be used to poke a person to death." The classmate climbed onto the bed neatly and then explained.

"Incredible! It seems that we should truly buy such a phone to defend ourselves. If there was a thief, we could poke him dead if smashing doesn't work." The girl who first asked about it said after awakening from her daze.

The phone was so peculiar that Shen Min would recall the matter every time she took her Nokia phone out. Luckily, the phone got through in a little while.

"What's up, Min Min?" From the other end of the phone passed a

clear female voice. It sounded like that the girl was also young.

"Xiao Jia, have you found a job?" Shen Min first asked her tentatively.

"That's not easy. I don't have a university degree and basically can't find a job with two days off per week. What's wrong?" The girl called Xiao Jia said straightforwardly. Despite saying that, she didn't seem to be frustrated.

"I just got one. It's a part-time job." Shen Min wasn't an optimistic person, therefore she didn't tell her friend directly that she wanted her to come to work.

"Terrific! Congratulations. I will bring your favorite dried tofu to you the next time when we meet." Xiao Jia was very happy.

"Thank you. But the boss needs another attendant working during the daytime from Monday to Friday while I only work in the evening and at weekends. Every week, we can get paid by 1300 RMB and two of us can split the money up. Xiao Jia, can you accept that?" Seeing Xiao Jia so happy for her, Shen Min was relieved and then straightforwardly brought out her purpose.

"Wow, 1300 RMB per week. That's really a good price. Are you serious? I don't have any problems going to work," Xiao Jia said delightedly on the phone.

"Sure. The boss wants us to go there together tomorrow...." After

Xiao Jia agreed, Shen Min began to explain to her smilingly. Then the two of them started to discuss how to split the salary on the phone.

Both of them appeared happy and harmonious. It seemed that the staff of Yuan Zhou was finally confirmed.

While Yuan Zhou was making the white pastry, he added some gluten-free flour inside. The gluten-free flour had broad applications and during the preparation of snacks, it also brought about great benefits. It could increase the transparency of the white pastry. Apart from that, the texture and fragrance would become more plentiful as the gluten-free flour was made from the wheat with gluten and all other things were removed; hence, it still carried some fragrance of the wheat.

The key point now, however, was to make the stuffing of the white pastry.

Dry red dates were required to be used after they were soaked in the water again. Therefore, Yuan Zhou directly looked for where the dry red dates were stored and then found them as expected.

"The color is bright while the fragrance is as strong as fresh ones. System, are these newly-dried red dates?" Yuan Zhou picked one up to identify it carefully. He even peeled the skin and then tasted it.

The system displayed, "Each red date is worth 10 RMB."

"What the f*ck. It was just a habit of being a chef to taste the food ingredient. 10 RMB for one? Even if I'm not short of money, you cannot treat me like that." Yuan Zhou looked at the red date of which he had bit a little and felt quite speechless.

The system displayed, "From the selection of fresh fruits to the preparation technique, these red dates are of the highest grade."

In case Yuan Zhou didn't understand, the system straightforwardly turned on the mode of acting cool.

The system displayed, "The red date originates from China and has a planting history of more than 8000 years. It has been regarded as one of the five fruits (chestnut, peach, plum, apricot and date) ever since the ancient times and is the 7th dried fruit worldwide. The main characteristic is its very high content of vitamins. Due to that, it enjoys the good reputation as natural vitamin pills."

"The system selected Liulinmu Jujube, which has a cultivation history of more than 1300 years. The red date that has been selected is from the parent trees of over 1000 years."

"The red date of Liulinmu Jujube has a small stone, thick flesh, and high sugar content. It is the best choice to make date paste. The paste made out of the particular red dates is bright in color; the fragrance will linger in the air; the flesh is as smooth as oil; the sugar filament is long and bright; and the taste is extraordinarily sweet."

Wouldn't the tree become a demon after more than 1000 years?

All the system's introductions could be summarized by one sentence, that is, it was already a friendship price in charging 10 RMB for one.

However, Yuan Zhou didn't have any gratitude towards the system. Instead, he just wanted to give a slap to it when he faced with the long paragraphs of the introduction.

The primitive power could hardly be controlled anymore.

"System, I feel that the red date is so precious that it can even be sold separately." Yuan Zhou took the red date and looked over it again and again. In the end, he gulped it down completely.

"10 RMB for each. Hooo, I can't waste it since I have paid for it." Babbled Yuan Zhou. If the date stone was edible, Yuan Zhou would have already chewed it to pieces and swallowed it up. A red date worth 10 RMB! It was definitely the middle-class people's life to eat such an expensive red date.

He picked an appropriate amount of red dates into a special basket. After washing them clean, Yuan Zhou began to soak them in the water right away.

The soaking time wasn't for too long. After that, he started to boil them with a medium flame without changing the water until the red dates became soft. Having scooped up them again, he

started to peel the skin and remove the stone without delay.

Along with the fragrance of the dates rising upward, Yuan Zhou took out a new bamboo knife and prepared to remove the date stone.

Chapter 228: Rose Pastry

The key point in making the date paste was to peel the skin off. Even if only a little skin was blended in the date paste, it would likewise severely affect its tender, sweet and smooth texture.

If the girl that often called Yuan Zhou Boss Liu saw how he peeled the skin off at the moment, she definitely wouldn't correct herself in calling him Boss Liu. The craftsmanship simply couldn't be described without the words of "drastically amazing."

Yuan Zhou held a knife in his right hand with the edge toward the red date and a well-cooked date in his left hand with the tip end upward. He slightly rotated the date with the left hand along the knife edge and the skin of the red date was then peeled off. It was as seductive as the clothes of a beautiful woman falling from the smooth skin.

After that, he peeled off the hard skin and put the intact flesh into a bowl while pushing the date stone out, without damaging the flesh at all.

Having taken the intact flesh out and pounded it until it became pulp, he added some cane sugar and then began to boil it.

"System, I feel I should add some honey at the moment so that the taste and texture can reach a higher level," said Yuan Zhou while he was boiling it with a small flame.

The system displayed, "With regard to the culinary skills, you can

comprehend it by yourself."

"You got it wrong. What I mean is that I need honey." Yuan Zhou ridiculed with an expressionless face.

What a joke! Yuan Zhou also wanted to buy the honey by himself but the system believed the ingredients bought outside weren't raised or processed carefully. Besides, the quality and texture were unable to reach the selection requirements.

After Yuan Zhou said that, the system kept silent for quite a while. It was so long that the date paste was already well-cooked.

The system displayed, "Congratulations, host, for your improvement of the culinary skills. As a result, a special reward is hereby awarded."

[Special Reward] Yanfeng Royal Jelly (available to be received)

"Well, it looks really good." Looking at the reward in sight, Yuan Zhou didn't receive it immediately.

He looked again at the finished date paste. The color was in bright reddish brown and the flavor was natural and delicate.

"The cane sugar is also not bad. I can use the royal jelly next time," Yuan Zhou muttered to himself.

From the seventh sense of a man, Yuan Zhou felt it a little strange that the system decided to release the reward to him at this time. In order not to affect his mood of making delicious dishes, he decided to receive the reward later.

Previous lessons had to be kept in mind. Every time, the reward would basically be a scam if he didn't get it from the completion of a mission.

After the stuffing was done, Yuan Zhou prepared to make the pastry. The principle of making the pastry was naturally to complete it at a quick speed. Just within two seconds, a pastry was done in his hands. Pastries made in such a short moment naturally had no other tastes except the purest fragrance of the glutinous rice and the red dates.

The second one that Yuan Zhou made was the rose pastry. Only the name itself had already conveyed great romance as the rose had always been linked with love in recent decades. The aromatic flavor and the flamboyant or pure color could basically conquer most females.

For the rose pastry, he certainly had to extract the color of rose out first and then dye the glutinous rice flour red. Rose pastries made that way had the aromatic flavor from the inside out.

Following a sound of "Zhi Ya", Yuan Zhou opened a cabinet and took out an intact fresh rose from inside.

The moment he opened the cabinet, the fragrance of the rose

rushed into Yuan Zhou's nose. Yet, it wasn't pungent at all. Instead, it was quite luscious as if it had penetrated deep into his heart.

"It's truly fresh." Yuan Zhou picked up a rose flower. With a slight shake, the dew spattered immediately. With his sensitive nose, Yuan Zhou certainly smelled the fragrance of the rose.

The system displayed, "It's the *rosa damascena* classified in the category of edible roses. This flower is the national flower of Bulgaria. It has double petals growing in a corymb, single petal, or semi-double petals. The flower stalk and calyx tube are densely covered with glandular hair and had a strong scent. It is of high value to use."

"The wild rose is basically free from the insects and pests, which is the law of nature. What the system uses is the edible *rosa damascena*."

"I know you are awesome and use the best material every time." Yuan Zhou washed the flower petals and meanwhile ridiculed the system. It was just that his voice was blocked by the face mask and hence couldn't be heard clearly.

The preparation of the rose jam was the simplest, requiring only sugar and roses. Therefore, Yuan Zhou made the rose jam first. Most of the time, people got used to eating it after preserving it for two months. For Yuan Zhou, however, he liked the fresh rose jam most as the color was bright and the fragrance was strong.

Wrapped that way, it was as if the pastry had wrapped a rose garden inside.

In one and a half hours, Yuan Zhou only made 25 colored pastries, 5 of each color, even with Yuan Zhou's quick actions. They were then placed in the preservation cabinet provided by the system.

"Hua La", Yuan Zhou pulled open the door. This time, girls made up the majority of the crowd that surrounded the entrance. The first ten customers were basically all girls and even Boss Tong was included.

"Good evening, Boss Yuan. Did you make the rose cookies?" The first one was naturally Man Man from the bakery store. She couldn't wait to ask that once she spoke.

"No." Yuan Zhou answered her greetings with a nod, but denied Man Man's question.

"That's totally impossible. We all smell the fragrance of the roses. Although there is also fragrance of something else like the dates, the taste of the rose does exist." While following Yuan Zhou into the restaurant, Man Man said with certainty.

"What delicacies are you cooking, little Boss Yuan? The taste is so nice. Even this old lady can't resist the temptation." Boss Tong asked at the back.

"Pastry. It's a new dish of pastry, 25 in total," Yuan Zhou stood back to his usual position and then answered.

"It turns out to be the cold snack. Boss Yuan, get me one with a flavor of the rose." Man Man insisted there should be roses in the ingredients.

"The flavor is random. Temporarily, there are only five flavors," Yuan Zhou said again.

"Every time Boss Yuan says so, I believe he is absolutely unable to find a girlfriend," Man Man said while grinding her teeth.

"No, that won't happen..." Just when Yuan Zhou intended to say the very same words, he was interrupted by Man Man.

"Because you cook well, right? But even so, you still can't find a girlfriend because your EQ is so low." Man Man interrupted and told Yuan Zhou a fact that she wasn't overwhelmed by his charm at all.

"Please order the dishes." Yuan Zhou decided to do business seriously. It was more interesting to make Wu Hai choke.

"A pastry." Looking at the crowded customers behind, of which girls were in the majority, she selected the pastry decisively.

"It's totally 56 RMB. Thank you." Yuan Zhou reported to her the price.

"Here you are. The amount is just right." Man Man handed the money to him. Then, Yuan Zhou took out a tray and received the money with it. After that, he poured the money directly into the drawer without touching it with his hands.

Money was the dirtiest thing in the world. On the other hand, however, it was meanwhile the thing that was loved most by people. Numerous people worked hard and diligently for it, including Yuan Zhou himself.

He carried out a serving of pastry casually, which happened to be the rose pastry that Man Man longed for.

"Here's your rose pastry." Yuan Zhou set down the dish lightly before taking orders from another customer behind her.

As there was no attendant now, the way Yuan Zhou took orders went back to the past. He first inquired the customers about the dishes in sequence and then carried it to them.

"So beautiful." Man Man began to drool toward the rose pastry. But she managed to take out the phone and take an all-around video of the dish before taking up a transparent crystal-like spoon and beginning to eat it.

The pastry was in a beautiful rose-red color. As it had barely been taken out from the preservation cabinet, it carried a trace of cool air and some white smoke was emitted from it. Inside of the transparent and crystal skin was the easily recognizable rose jam.

With the size of half a girls' fist, the whole pastry was placed on a light brown plate, over which a fresh leaf was placed. It turned out to be a rose leaf.

A work of art with full scores on the aspects of appearance, taste and romance factor...

Chapter 229: The Reward of Yanfeng Royal Jelly

"Tsk-tsk. I've never thought this Ironwood Compass had such romantic cells in his body." Man Man teased him privately.

She used the ironwood instead of elm to describe Yuan Zhou, as he lacked a sense of romance more than the stubborn elm.

"I'm a little unwilling to eat it." Man Man said while looking at the pastry served on the plate.

"Me either. This is so beautiful." Beside Man Man was a lovable short-haired girl. She said with agony while supporting her chin with one hand and taking the crystal spoon with the other.

"I don't want the pastry to be covered with my saliva." Man Man turned the head and said with a helpless manner.

"That's true. Look at mine. It's also very beautiful." This was just what made them girls. They always liked sharing beautiful things with others.

"So is mine." Man Man also dragged her own plate close.

On the plate of the short-haired girl was also a leaf. However, it was another kind of unknown leaf rather than the rose leaf. The pastry on the leaf was a semi-transparent jade-white color and

inside it was the beautiful and smooth red-brown stuffing.

"What flavor is your pastry? It's like a jade with stuffing inside. How beautiful." Man Man looked at the white jade-like pastry.

"This is date paste. It's pretty, right?" The girl revealed a proud expression.

"Yes, it's indeed pretty. Look at mine. It's rose." Man Man also pushed her own plate to the girl.

"It's like a real rose flower. How fragrant." The short-haired girl liked Man Man's pastry very much, too.

Other girls that got seated were basically in the same situation. They all knew that the pastries tasted good, but were likewise unwilling to eat it and destroy the beauty.

Taking the transparent crystal spoon, they kept hesitant for quite a while and didn't even know which part to eat first.

"Forget it. My saliva will flow out if I still don't eat it." Man Man firmly pinched the spoon and cut one piece off in a go.

The thickness of the skin was moderate while the stuffing inside was just enough. From the gap, she could see the rose jam coagulate and not disperse. It was just that the fragrance became stronger.

"Awoo". Having stuffed the piece into her mouth, Man Man instantly felt that nothing could impress her more than the pastry.

Man Man sipped the pastry whose texture was smooth and delicate lightly. The well-cooked glutinous rice flour gradually melted when it touched the warm lips and tongue. What was melting at the same time was the fragrance of the rose. Its silky and smooth touch directly became its texture.

The pastry was basically liked by all girls with its pretty color and softness. Hardly could any of them resist the fascination. Those who don't like eating it was because some pastries were excessively sweet.

However, the taste of the rose in Man Man's mouth wasn't like that. She felt in every mouthful of the glutinous rice flour only the fragrance of the rose as well as the taste with a hint of sweetness. After chewing it carefully, she realized it was the rose jam.

"I feel as if I have eaten a rose garden." Man Man opened the mouth meticulously, worrying that the fragrance of the rose would get out.

The small pastry was soon eaten up by Man Man.

"What's your pastry like? How do you like it?" Man Man waited until the short-haired girl ate up her pastry and then couldn't wait to ask.

"It's super delicious. I originally thought the date paste would definitely be very sweet, but actually it's not like that. Eating the pastry is simply like eating the fresh dates that were super fresh and sweet. Besides, there's none of that tiresome skin." The girl gave a long speech excitedly.

"We should have tasted the pastries of each other just now ." Man Man looked at the two clean plates regretfully.

"Yes, absolutely. I didn't think of that, either." The short-haired girl also revealed an expression of regret.

"I come up with an idea. Shall we try?" Man Man got inspired and then said.

"What kind of idea?" The short-haired girl was quite curious.

"Just watch me and you'll know." Man Man said with great confidence.

"Humm." The short-haired agreed with a nod after she heard that.

"Boss Yuan." Man Man shouted loudly.

"What's up?" Yuan Zhou came up and looked at their empty plates and then the quirky excitement on Man Man's face.

"I want to order a pastry with another taste." Man Man said confidently.

"The rules are all on the wall and nothing changes." Yuan Zhou immediately reacted. But he still said naturally.

"I know that. But the baked egg cakes can be ordered for 2 with different tastes. Why not the pastry?" Man Man illustrated well.

"It's not because of the taste." Yuan Zhou indicated that he had already explained this question.

"I know they belong to different dishes. But don't the stuffing of date paste and rose jam count for different dishes?" Man Man said with complete confidence.

"No, it's not. It is the pure stuffing and can't count for the plate." Yuan Zhou said primly.

Of course he also asked the system about that. However, the reaction of the system was still No Reaction, naturally.

"I feel you should add it into the rules." Man Man insisted.

"Others are waiting for your seat." Man Man's suggestion was naturally quite welcomed by Yuan Zhou. If so, there would be another two dishes. Provided that it was 108 RMB for each, it

would bring about much money.

However, how could Yuan Zhou be a person that loved money? He was actually a person that loved money very much, so he reminded Man Man that she should offer the seat to others.

"..." Man Man was rather speechless with Yuan Zhou's answer. She suddenly felt the pattern of her shoe soles were very beautiful and she really wanted to print it on Boss Yuan's face.

However, the pastry that Boss Yuan carried out again made her give up the idea. The pastry was the celebrity in the pastry circle, the green pastry.

It was emerald green and moreover emitted cool air. Beneath the pastry were not green leaves anymore but instead, it was the red flower petals that could serve as a foil to the green pastry, which increased people's appetite with only a glimpse.

"Boss Yuan makes pastries. Boss Yuan makes delicious pastries." While murmuring silently for a while, Man Man gradually got rid of the idea of beating Yuan Zhou to death and then walked out of Yuan Zhou's restaurant calmly.

Yuan Zhou nevertheless didn't actually know the good-looking pastries had helped him to keep his handsome face.

The mere 25 pastries were sold out just in a little while. After that, the remaining girls all kept asking Yuan Zhou when the

pastries would be served again. Luckily, they all knew Yuan Zhou's temperament and hence reacted moderately.

"They'll be served again during the opening hours tomorrow, but the quantity is uncertain," said Yuan Zhou seriously. After that, he didn't answer them anymore.

In order to eat the pastries, the girls had basically used all their specialties including singing, reading, acting, pretending angry or coquettish, etc, each having her own advantages. Nevertheless, Yuan Zhou had only one sensation that these cunning girls wanted to cheat his money and ask for discounts again when he saw the beautiful customers.

Therefore, Yuan Zhou paid no attention to all of them and just concentrated on his business. Only when they realized there was truly no more pastries to be served did they leave.

Though Boss Tong entered the restaurant earlier, she didn't order the dish when she saw the price of the pastry. With the 20 RMB seat charge, the total price was actually not cheap. She was no longer a young girl and didn't need to eat it despite the great desire, therefore she was only watching the scene of bustle.

The bustling dinner time passed soon. Looking at that reward, Yuan Zhou simply couldn't resist the temptation. Royal jellies were originally rare, let alone the Yanfeng royal jelly. After all, even the honey of Yanfeng was quite rare.

"System, are there any requirements if I receive the reward?"

Yuan Zhou carefully sought for proof.

The system displayed, "No."

"Then I will receive it now." After considering for a while, Yuan Zhou received the reward. Anyhow, the honey had wide applications.

But soon, Yuan Zhou hoped that he had never received it.

"System, you degraded!" Yuan Zhou howled with grief and bitter hatred.

Chapter 230: Way to Obtain the Royal Jelly

"System, I have never expected that you have degraded to such an extent," said Yuan Zhou with deep hatred and resentment as if his own child had suddenly deteriorated.

The system displayed, "The reward has been released. Please check and receive it."

"I want to receive it but you tell me how." If the system was a physical being, Yuan Zhou would have already cursed to its face.

What the hell is this reward!

[Special Reward]: Yanfeng Royal Jelly (Received)

[Way to Obtain]: It's located in a contiguous area which neighbors Shuikou Town in the east, Qianfo Town and Guifu Town in the north and Sanban Town and Caihe Town in the southwest. The coordinates of this place are 95°27'~106°11' for east longitude, 23°03'~33°11' for north latitude. You can get it there.

Yuan Zhou looked at the way to obtain the royal jelly again and became completely speechless.

"System, I feel like we really need to have an earnest communication," Yuan Zhou took a deep breath and said primly.

The system displayed, "It's a must for a chef to get precious food ingredients personally."

The system's words made Yuan Zhou unable to say anything this time, therefore he was rendered speechless. Originally, he had felt it lucky that he could save the time of buying it. As for the selection of the food ingredients, he would naturally turn up his nose at other ingredients after the system had provided him with that.

"You should give me a concrete address." As a person who had no sense of directions, it would be shameful to recognize the longitude and latitude. Therefore Yuan Zhou said that immodestly.

However, the system might have cried due to Yuan Zhou's stupidity, hence didn't answer him. After all, there wasn't any more detailed information other than the longitude and latitude, naturally except to the guys who really had no sense of directions.

"As a matter of fact, the royal jelly is nothing special. I might as well cook something else." Yuan Zhou looked around at the kitchen and said that with a tone of self-affirmation.

The pub was going to be open for service in a little while and Yuan Zhou needed to make some preparations for that.

Yuan Zhou had only a little work during the opening hours of the pub. The liquor had to be taken from the inside of the bamboo in the customer's presence and then served to the customers who had ordered it. The remaining work was beyond Yuan Zhou's

concerns.

He didn't provide dishes with wine nor did he provide more than one cup. Therefore, Yuan Zhou had long been expecting to recruit an attendant to work in the pub, but Mu Xiaoyun was too young to stay up too late. Luckily, another person was coming for the job tomorrow and Yuan Zhou could then be relieved from the concerns.

"I heard Boss Yuan provided a pastry that attracted numerous girls today?" Dressed in a beautiful grass green one-piece dress, Jiang Changxi asked about that once she entered the restaurant.

"Yes. It's the colored pastry." Yuan Zhou confirmed with a nod.

"Unfortunately, I have no time during the daytime. The appearance is said to be very beautiful." Jiang Changxi said regretfully while holding her phone.

"I'm more concerned about when Boss Yuan would provide dishes with wine. I simply can't wait longer for them." Fang Heng walked into the restaurant unhurriedly while carrying several ceramic boxes with one hand.

"You have to take the responsibility in providing me with the dishes temporarily," said Chen Wei casually with Dong Dong following him.

"No problem. I provide the dishes for free. What you need to do is

just sharing a cup of liquor with me," said Fang Heng with a smile.

"Boss Fang, you are much too shrewd. Do you want to cheat my brother for a cup of liquor with only several dishes with wine? That won't work." Dong Dong went up and spoke with a coarse voice.

"No, you are talking wrong. The dishes in my pub are also not bad. Although they can't match with Boss Yuan's liquor, they are not inferior at all. A cup of liquor is truly a friendly exchange." Fang Heng likewise said mildly.

"Forget it. I'd rather prepare the dishes by myself." Chen Wei made the final decision.

What a joke. They had been fairly frustrated to share two cups of the liquor to each other. Fang Heng surprisingly wanted to get another share from that. He wasn't trying to get the liquor but was actually trying to cut their flesh. How could they let that happen?

"Never mind. We can trade like that whenever you want to. Miss Jiang can also enjoy the same trade conditions. I cheat neither old nor young and will always offer the same conditions." Fang Heng then aimed at Jiang Changxi with a smile.

"Don't count me in. You are too cunning. Boss Yuan's dishes are all good, so the expensive price is understandable. For yours, however, I would like to offer only 100 RMB. No more." Jiang Changxi was a frank person who said whatever she thought.

"What's expensive in my pub is the friendship, which is priceless," said Fang Heng unhurriedly. As a businessman, his face was definitely thick enough.

"Business time starts now." Before Chen Wei and Jiang Changxi ridiculed Fang Heng, Yuan Zhou stood up and began to lead the customer into the pub.

"Come on. Let's go to drink liquor. Trafficker Fang, let's play games to win the liquor shortly." Chen Wei directly gave Fang Heng a nickname and then walked ahead of others along with Dong Dong.

"No problem. Half a cup at a time." Fang Heng didn't care much about the proposal. He walked after them while carrying the dishes with wine and then agreed.

"Count me in." Jiang Changxi was likewise interested in the game.

"No problem. Let's play together." Chen Wei had no opinion on the two people joining them. If Zheng Xian was here today, however, Chen Wei would not say so. After all, he had never won against her.

When they got upstairs, the several people drank liquor and played games. It was such a lively scene. Nevertheless, Yuan Zhou tapped open the map quietly and started to check the place to obtain the royal jelly.

"System, is the royal jelly well packaged and placed there?" Yuan Zhou asked, not entertaining much hope about it.

The system displayed, "Host, you have to take it by yourself. The method will be provided."

"I knew it would be like that." Yuan Zhou continued to check on the map.

It wasn't a frustrating result. The site was still within the province. Two days were supposed to be enough on the way there and back.

Having known the place, what he needed to consider next was when to go there. Since the system didn't have any time limit, it probably meant nothing urgent. Therefore, Yuan Zhou wasn't anxious, either. Currently, there wasn't any food that necessarily required the honey.

The pub was opened for service until the midnight. Since the business time almost ended, Jiang Changxi called Master Bai to come over and pick her up.

Master Bai was quite experienced. When he arrived at the restaurant, Jiang Changxi had barely gotten downstairs.

"Are you here for the liquor again? It smells so good," said Master Bai with a smile.

"Master Bai, would you like to drink a cup of the liquor with me?" said Jiang Changxi generously.

"No, thanks. It's too late." Master Bai's answer was still the same.

"You also said so last time." Asked Jiang Changxi with puzzlement while seated at the backseat.

As far as she knew, Master Bai was addicted to wine, especially to good wine. Theoretically, he was supposed to like drinking Boss Yuan's liquor after she had offered to treat him so many times. After all, every time Jiang Changxi got on the car, he knew the liquor was good just by smelling the flavor.

Jiang Changxi was always refused every time she offered to treat him to a cup of wine.

"Yeah, that's true. She waits for me at home whenever I drive out for business. If I go back home late, she'll be worried about me." Said Master Bai frankly.

"So is she waiting today? She must be very tired to stay up so late every day waiting for you." Said Jiang Changxi.

"Not today. She has already slept today since she was sleepy," said Master Bai smilingly while he was driving attentively.

"So you don't need to go back home early today, do you?" said Jiang Changxi deservedly.

"No, I can't. I have to go back earlier. After I send you home, I'm going to stop driving and go home." Master Bai made a turn steadily.

"Why?" Jiang Changxi was a little curious.

"If she doesn't see me when she wakes up, she would be more worried." There was likewise a slight concern in Master Bai's tone.

"Master Bai, you have such a good wife," said Jiang Changxi sincerely.

"Haw-haw. You'll understand the feeling in future," Master Bai parked the car after a sound of "Zi" and then said lightly.

"Humm." After she paid the fare and got off the car, the cab drove away quickly like the wind.

Love might really just be some simple words. You are worried about me and I am worried about you. Then, I am good.

Chapter 231: New Attendants

While walking upstairs, Jiang Changxi was thinking of Master Bai's words and became lost in her thoughts. Such a person addicted to wine wasn't willing to savor good liquor even when she arranged everything and both of them would be heading back for home. When could she meet a man who treasured her so much?

Yuan Zhou shut the door, walked upstairs to wash up and then went to sleep. In his dream that night, the system was no longer a yellow chicken, but became a hateful bee that obstructed him in various ways when he went to receive the reward of royal jelly.

The result was naturally Yuan Zhou slapping the bee to death with his shoes and obtaining the reward smoothly. Just like a warrior that defeated a demon dragon, Yuan Zhou came back victorious.

Therefore, Yuan Zhou was in a fairly wonderful mood for the whole morning on the following day. Thinking that he needed some time to have an interview, Yuan Zhou didn't cook other dishes for breakfast. He just prepared the Clear Broth Noodle Soup, which was also a popular star breakfast.

At 7:30, Yuan Zhou opened the door on time. Outside the restaurant were two girls.

Both of them looked plain but had delicate faces. On the left was Shen Min who had been here for an interview yesterday. She was dressed in an ordinary yellow T-shirt and jeans and had her hair

tied in a bun. She gave people a refreshing impression and looked appropriate for work.

On the right was another attendant introduced here by Shen Min. Although she had a plain appearance, she appeared youthful and energetic, with a hint of maturity that did not match her age. She was also dressed in a blue T-shirt and gray jeans suitable for working.

"Good morning, boss. This is Zhou Jia, from my hometown. She is receiving education now so she can only work during the daytime from Monday to Friday. She's very diligent and has experience working in a hotel. Is she alright?" Shen Min talked loudly at first. But when she saw Yuan Zhou's solemn face and expressionless manner, she became a little shy.

"Morning, boss. I once worked as an attendant in a hotel and can take tough tasks. You won't regret hiring me," said Zhou Jia, assuring him.

"The restaurant closes at 11:30 at night and you basically need another twenty minutes to clear the restaurant up. How will you girls go back?" Yuan Zhou was asking both of them, who didn't seem to have cars.

"I can take the last bus back to the university town at night. It passes here at 12:00 or so. I have checked the timetable," Shen Min pointed to the bus stop at the crossing of the side street and then said affirmatively.

"I don't arrange transport, accommodation and meals. You'll have to manage them by yourselves. The weekly wage is 1300 RMB, of which 250 RMB is for taking the bus. There are a total of 9 working hours a day." Yuan Zhou reported his conditions and remuneration one by one.

Hearing Yuan Zhou report the remuneration again, the two girls then felt relieved. Currently, it was like a pie-from-the-sky treatment to have two people working a total of 9 hours per day and everyone could almost get 100 RMB a day.

After all, neither had university degrees. Considering the short working time and this particular part-time job, it was likewise a preferential treatment even if the boss didn't provide accommodation and meals. Therefore, both of them wanted to stay and work here.

"No problem, no problem. We have no problem at all," the two girls looked at each other and said at the same time.

"Then come on in." Yuan Zhou nodded the head and let the two girls in.

"Ok." The girls answered in one voice.

"They are fairly interesting." Yuan Zhou thought in his heart.

"This is the menu and the rules, which you need to learn by heart. You are responsible for taking orders and then telling me. I

will teach you how to bottle the liquor at night when the pub is open. Of course, you can bring your homework here and do it at night when there is lesser tasks," Yuan Zhou pointed at the menu and rules on the wall painted with lotus flowers and said.

"Ok." "Ok, boss." The girls' answers were still almost the same this time.

"That's all. The breakfast time ends at 8:00 in the morning and lasts for one hour," Yuan Zhou added. Then he started to prepare the ingredients for the breakfast.

When they heard that they needed to learn the menu and rules by heart, Zhou Jia and Shen Min had different reactions.

Zhou Jia raised her head to observe the content carefully and read it silently while Shen Min took out a small notebook and pen from her backpack and copied the contents into her notebook. She seemed to intend to take it back and memorize it well.

"Boss, I can recite them now." Ten minutes passed soon in silence. The candid girl, Zhou Jia, had thought Yuan Zhou would ask her to recite, hence turned around and said to Yuan Zhou.

"Humm. Do you start working today or tomorrow?" asked Yuan Zhou.

"I can start today," Zhou Jia said confidently.

"Well, well. Me, too." Shen Min hesitated for a moment. It wasn't the matter of when to start working. It was just that she hadn't learned the price by heart.

The dishes and rules in Yuan Zhou's restaurant were not too many, but likewise not too little now.

"Breakfast: Soup Dumplings, 66RMB/steamer; Clear Broth Noodle Soup Set, 308RMB/serving...." Zhou Jia began to recite the price list without any hesitation.

"No need to recite them to me. Just learn them by heart. When the business time starts shortly, you greet the customers and carry the dishes to them. Nothing else." Yuan Zhou interrupted Zhou Jia's reciting and emphasized what they needed to do.

Standing behind Zhou Jia, Shen Min let out a sigh of relief. She was just curious about their work. Did they just need to greet the customers and didn't even need to wipe the table and chairs? Despite the thought, neither of them asked Yuan Zhou about that. However, each had different reasons.

"Ok, boss." They answered in one voice again this time.

While memorizing the prices, Shen Min was inwardly surprised and moreover felt more and more awkward. Was there really anybody who could afford the dishes? A soup dumpling of 66 RMB and a serving of Egg Fried Rice of 188 RMB. If not the prices were all clearly shown on the wall, Shen Min would rather believe that she missed a radix point.

The most important thing was that the price list clearly stated the currency was RMB. It was really a very large amount of money for Shen Min who could live for two weeks with 188 RMB. She was still hesitating whether or not she needed to advise her boss. The restaurant looked newly opened and the boss might not know the market well.

As for Zhou Jia, she was more unperturbed. Although the price surprised her, she felt the dishes could definitely be sold out since her boss set the prices. Therefore, she didn't worry if the dishes could be sold. She just didn't know how the business was like. About this point, she was slightly curious.

However, her curiosity soon vanished because of the surrounding hawkers and the long line of customers who were waiting to eat.

This was just unbelievable to Shen Min. She looked at the outside and inside of the restaurant several times in surprise as if she were curious about something. However, Yuan Zhou didn't intend to explain to her.

"Wow, Boss Yuan has hired some new people. They are surprisingly beautiful sisters," Ling Hong entered the restaurant first while saying that.

"It truly is. What are you serving today?" Octopus followed him into the restaurant but cared more about dishes.

"Noodles. Clear Broth Noodle Soup." Zhou Jia answered swiftly.

The girl beside her, Shen Min, was a little shy and didn't manage to answer the first.

"Again, not the soup dumplings," Ling Hong complained.

"A serving of Clear Broth Noodle Soup Set." Tank directly ordered his dish wittily. That way, he could be the first one who savors the dishes.

"Although there is pickled garlic, I also want a serving of the set meal," Ji Lian took a look at Octopus and said after him.

"Hey, hey. Is it really good for you guys to order the set meal as soon as I treat? Get me a serving of the set meal too," Octopus said discontentedly.

"Since you are treating, we would certainly order the set meal," Ling Hong said affirmatively.

Zhou Jia and Shen Min listened to them carefully. Only after their confirmation did they report them to Yuan Zhou. They, especially the latter one, were immediately astounded by these wealthy customers.

Chapter 232: Actions of the Wealthy

Shen Min felt she was merely in this big city for university education. Why was her worldview refreshed? There were surprisingly so many people who waited in line to buy such expensive dishes. The Clear Broth Noodle Soup Set was more expensive than the Clear Broth Noodle Soup by 40 RMB, yet with only two additional cloves of garlic and a bowl of soup. He was simply overcharging the customers.

This was definitely, absolutely, overcharging.

She looked at her boss meticulously and found that he was cooking the noodles with an earnest look.

"Min Min, carry the noodles," Zhou Jia tugged Shen Min's sleeves carefully and reminded her in a low voice.

"Ok, sure." Shen Min then reacted at once. She went up and carried the noodles to the customers.

"Here are your noodles," said Shen Min politely.

"Thank you." Ji Lian raised his head and revealed a faint smile.

Shen Min's face turned red immediately. She had never seen such a delicate man.

Just in a little while, more and more customers arrived. Neither of them had seen such a lively scene before, hence they started perspiring due to the nervousness.

"You just attend to taking orders and delivering the dishes. Other things are just not within your responsibility," Yuan Zhou reminded Shen Min when she ran over to wipe the table for the third time.

"But, there are so many people..." said Shen Min in a low voice.

"Just ignore it." Yuan Zhou signaled her to watch Zhou Jia who was taking orders at the other side.

A customer over there was about to leave. Zhou Jia reminded him gently to clear the table according to Yuan Zhou's instructions while the customer followed suit as instructed.

"I got it. Thank you, boss." Shen Min had originally wanted to perform better and hence wiped the table personally. After all, no restaurant would let its customers to clear the table by themselves.

However, the customers in this small restaurant seemed to be not like those she had known.

At that time, Shen Min heard other two customers walking into the restaurant. Their dialogue nevertheless made her unable to interrupt.

"Are the dishes here really so delicious? We have almost waited for an hour for the breakfast," the short man asked Wu Zhou beside him curiously.

"I am the one who introduced you to this place. Of course, they are delicious." Wu Zhou rolled his eyes and said confidently.

"The price is way too expensive," the short man mumbled.

"Hey, you fellow. You earn so much now and is still reluctant to treat me to a meal?" Wu Zhou grabbed the short man and walked forward.

"I don't think the dishes are delicious. Look, a clove of garlic is left there on the table of that man, uneaten," the short man suddenly said excitedly.

"You must be talking nonsense. I have never seen anybody come to eat and leave a dirty bowl. The dinnerware is even cleaner than those that have been washed in their homes. How could they possibly leave any dish uneaten?" Wu Zhou didn't even turn his head to have a look. He totally disbelieved his words.

"It's true. The noodles of 308 RMB per bowl might be not so delicious. The garlic that you mentioned to be tasty is even left behind now." In the opinion of the short man, the clean dinnerware didn't necessarily mean they were appetizing. It also might be because they were expensive.

"Don't look for excuses anymore." Wu Zhou dragged the short man to get seated.

"You turned your head, please," said the short man hopelessly.

"Alright. As you wish." Wu Zhou spread his hands and took a glimpse from the side. Then he suddenly found, on the temporarily vacant seat, there truly was a clove of garlic left there on the plate.

"What the fu*k! This must be a genuine wealthy guy. He surprisingly abandons a clove of garlic. How unbelievable." Wu Zhou immediately uttered dirty words.

"Eh..."The short man could completely understand Wu Zhou's mood now. After all, the noodles cost 308 RMB per bowl.

The new wealthy guy ate one clove and left the other. He could definitely boast after going out and shout, "I'm also one that can leave a garlic clove uneaten in yz's restaurant."

"Hi, the breakfast today are only Clear Broth Noodle Soup and the set meal. What would you like to eat?" Shen Min went up and asked them when they stopped talking.

"Boss Yuan changed the attendant?" Wu Zhou looked at Shen Min with curiosity.

"Yeah, I'm new." Shen Min had got used to that by now. She said while smiling.

"Clear Broth Noodle Soup Set." "Clear Broth Noodle Soup." Said Wu Zhou and the short man at the same time.

"That's all, right?" Shen Min confirmed with them.

"The set meal you mentioned has only two extra garlic cloves. Aren't the noodles the same?" The short man argued on the basis of reason.

"Of course they are different. The garlic is fairly delicious. Really. I don't mind if you order the set meal too," said Wu Zhou generously.

"Ho Ho. Because I am paying for that. Why the hell would you mind?" the short man ridiculed him privately.

"A serving of Clear Broth Noodle Soup Set. Thank you." Said Wu Zhou, confirming quickly.

"You are so awesome. I will still order the Clear Broth Noodle Soup." The short man thought the two garlic cloves weren't worth dozens of RMB.

"It's up to you. But I won't share my garlic cloves with you." Wu Zhou rarely took advantage of others, hence said excitedly.

He could save some money that way so that he could order an

extra dish with his girlfriend. Just thinking of that made Wu Zhou quite happy.

The breakfast time lasting 1 hour soon passed. The first working day of Shen Min and Zhou Jia likewise ended. The two of them waited for Yuan Zhou to announce their performance uneasily.

Nevertheless, Yuan Zhou was a little puzzled when he saw the two girls standing still. Not until he saw their expressions did he react.

"The work was not bad. You can arrange the work shift by yourselves. Just remember to come on time at noon," Yuan Zhou went up and said with a natural tone.

"Thank you, boss. Thank you so much." The two girls thanked Yuan Zhou at the same time.

They looked at Yuan Zhou's restaurant again and then walked out.

After walking for some distance, they began to chat excitedly.

"Jia Jia, there's no problem with your tuition fees now," said Shen Min happily.

"Thanks to your introduction. Thank you, Min Min." Zhou Jia dragged Shen Min's hands and revealed a look of gratitude.

"You are welcome. We are from the same village after all." The two girls walked to the bus stop hand in hand and prepared to go back.

"Do you think the boss will really give us such a high salary?" Shen Min was a little worried suddenly.

It was just that the work in Yuan Zhou's restaurant was too simple. They only needed to take orders and deliver the dishes and didn't do anything else. Sometimes, they didn't even need to carry the dishes. Such easy work coupled with the short working hours simply made Shen Min unable to feel relieved.

"I hope so. We all lack money." Zhou Jia was slightly more optimistic.

"We can almost get two hundred every day. I have never thought we can earn so much from a part-time job." Shen Min sighed with emotion.

"That's right. Then I can deposit some good money for the next course." Zhou Jia was also very happy.

"Jia Jia, you are so awesome. If you attend the college entrance examination, you can definitely get a better score than me." The attention of girls tended to easily shift. Immediately, Shen Min began to admire Zhou Jia's talent.

Shen Min and Zhou Jia were from the same village and, similarly, their family background was not so good. What Shen Min felt lucky was that her parents were still alive and could barely afford her tuition fees. The situation was different for Zhou Jia. Only her father was left. Apart from his poor health, she had a younger sister. As the elder sister, she wanted to give her younger sister the opportunity to attend the school.

She left her hometown to work after high school. Through self-education, she was admitted into a very good university and now receiving an education. She memorized all the dishes on the menu today while Shen Min still had to take notes.

"You are joking with me. You are also doing terrific." Zhou Jia smiled and meanwhile complimented Shen Min.

While talking and joking, they got on the bus and agreed that Zhou Jia would come to work at noon.

The working hours for Zhou Jia was from Monday to Friday while Shen Min was responsible for the night shift and the weekend. That way, they could both work outside of classes.

On the other side, Yuan Zhou suddenly received a notice from the system.

Chapter 233: New Excuse to Ask for Leave

Just as he was washing up and preparing to go to bed, Yuan Zhou suddenly received a notice that could likewise be considered a gift from the system.

The system displayed, "In the Host's menu, there's a dish of which the taste can be upgraded to a higher level."

"Wait. Are you going to tell me that directly?" Yuan Zhou became astounded immediately as the system had never awarded him any rewards on its own initiative before.

A reward for no reason was usually going to be a scam. Like last time, the abrupt big red packet released by the system was then paid out as tax.

The system displayed, "It's the dish of Silk Twined Rabbit."

"What does that mean?" Yuan Zhou appeared fairly calm when he found it was merely a name.

The system nevertheless fell silent and didn't say anything anymore.

"This is exactly the genuine style of the system." Yuan Zhou let out a sigh of relief.

The silence of the system was just its inherent character. However, the reminder was of great value. For every dish, Yuan Zhou had been doing everything possible to make them tastier and more delicious. Now that the system said there were means to improve the dishes, Yuan Zhou would definitely give it a try.

By cooking the dishes, he no longer aimed for making money but for his own interest. After all, he could only reveal the manner of "I enjoy watching the scene of you being mad at me, but meanwhile unwilling to dispose of me" by cooking appetizing dishes.

It was a new hobby of Yuan Zhou. He hadn't had the hobby for too long, only about two or three months.

Thinking of the possible ways to make the Silk Twined Rabbit more delicious, Yuan Zhou couldn't stay still anymore. He immediately took out a living rabbit from the cabinet and began to process it.

This time, Yuan Zhou slowed down his movements by ten times during each procedure in order to carefully observe the various variations of the rabbit. He still hadn't discovered any perfect means of improving the dish before taking the rabbit to smoke it.

Naturally, Yuan Zhou didn't pay much attention to other means of improvement. He believed that since the system specifically reminded him, there was definitely a unique method, which was for improving the taste.

However, what Yuan Zhou had now was superb craftsmanship

and it was extremely difficult to make it better. For the following few days, Yuan Zhou was constantly studying the rabbits outside business hours.

Luckily, the number of the rabbits provided by the system was limitless and hence, was sufficient to meet Yuan Zhou's requirements of studying it.

During the week, Shen Min and Zhou Jia received their weekly wages and felt completely relieved. They worked harder than before. Even if they didn't need to clean the restaurant, they wiped everything as clean as possible when there weren't any customers and did everything they could.

Yuan Zhou's mood was getting better slowly these few days as he had basically found the method of improving taste.

"I should add the honey here. It's the honey." While holding the rabbit that was being pickled, Yuan Zhou said affirmatively.

The system displayed, "Congratulations, host. You made it. You can now get the detailed address where the reward of the royal jelly is."

Yuan Zhou was immersed in his thoughts, hence didn't pay attention to the system temporarily.

If the honey was used during the pickling process, the color of the rabbits would become brighter after the smoking procedure.

Meanwhile, the sweet texture of the honey could make the rabbit meat fresher and more tender. The sweetness could also penetrate the meat.

Having gotten a better cooking method, Yuan Zhou was naturally unable to use the white sugar anymore. In the end, the rabbit was stewed in soy sauce and eaten by Yuan Zhou as his lunch.

"System, isn't there only royal jelly at the place you have provided?" Yuan Zhou circled the kitchen and didn't find the honey. Thinking of the reminder from the system, he started to ask.

The system displayed, "The system has provided the coordinates of the honeycomb of the Yanfeng Bees."

"You want me to collect the honey personally?" Yuan Zhou felt a little disbelief.

The system displayed, "The honey is contained in the honeycomb."

"Alright. What are the coordinates?" Yuan Zhou considered about the location and then said squarely while thinking of the Silk Twined Rabbit.

"Wait. I need a specific location this time. The one you provided last time was as big as a province," Yuan Zhou reminded the system.

The coordinates that provided by the system last time were about the size of a province. It was simply nonsense if he could find the place with that.

The system displayed, "The coordinates are 96°28' east longitude and 25°07' north latitude. You can get the honey over there."

"It's a cliff." After Yuan Zhou looked up the address, he said hopelessly.

The system displayed, "Yanfeng Bee is a kind of wild bee with a slightly bigger size than an ordinary honeybee. As an omnivorous species, it especially likes gathering honey and moreover is good at making its nest on the steep cliff. The Yanfeng Bee usually makes its nest on dangerous and protruding cliffs as high as hundreds of meters to prevent people from destroying it or other animals from attacking."

"Ho Ho. You do a better job even than Baidu," said Yuan Zhou, who felt rather speechless at the system.

Having considered for a while, Yuan Zhou decided to go to the place provided by the system.

When Shen Min just arrived and Zhou Jia was still there in the evening, Yuan Zhou told them, "I will be away for 5 days for some matters. Please help me write a notice for requesting leave and paste it on the door."

"What's the matter, boss?" Zhou Jia was more optimistic. After the several days' work here, she likewise found that Yuan Zhou was actually a very nice person. He just didn't like talking much. Therefore, she directly asked him.

"I'm to purchase some goods, important goods," said Yuan Zhou with certainty.

"Ok, I got it. Don't worry, boss." Zhou Jia accepted the work neatly.

"Shall I give it to you tomorrow?" Shen Min was shy and reserved when facing unfamiliar people. After getting along with her boss for such a long time, she was still a little shy.

"Humm. You can leave now." Yuan Zhou nodded his head.

While Yuan Zhou was planning to ask for leave and set out, Wu Hai who was holding an art show was also planning the same thing.

"Come on, Brother Hai. Don't be so childish. Haven't you just had dinner?" Dressed in a crease-free suit, Zheng Jiawei waved his hands and said with exaggerated actions, not caring about his image at all.

"What I have eaten is grass. I get hungry very soon." Wu Hai tore out his bow tie and said irritably while stroking his small

mustache.

"It's not true. I feel the dishes are awfully delicious. I have never expected Boss Yuan is so awesome and taught you so well." Zheng Jiawei managed to savor the vegetable dishes cooked by Wu Hai today. The taste was truly not bad.

"I eat either green stuff or blue stuff every day. I'm not a rabbit." Subsequently, he undid the buttons on the suit.

As he was the leading role of the art show, Wu Hai certainly had to dress formally. After dressing up in a suit, Wu Hai was quite attractive. With his figure cutting an inverted trapezium, he fit the suit well; the two small tufts of mustache gave him a charm of a middle-aged man; moreover, he appeared fairly steady and reliable.

"Then let's go to eat the roasted whole lamb tomorrow. I have inquired about the restaurants nearby. There's one that uses the baby lamb to make the dish. It's very fresh and tender." Zheng Jiawei was a versatile agent and thus proposed a scheme to solve Wu Hai's problem.

Having fell silent for a while, Wu Hai suddenly said resolutely, "I'm going home to eat. You order the earliest flight ticket for me."

"God, did I owe you a lot in my previous existence? If you leave now, what shall I do for the art show? The spectators want to see you, not me. What shall I do if you leave?" While speaking, Zheng Jiawei went up and held Wu Hai's sleeve firmly.

He was fearful that Wu Hai would immediately run away if he let go of him.

"Don't worry. You just tell them this artist get heavily sick after working for many days and can't get up," said Wu Hai primly with a florid face.

"No, don't do that. How can you do that? It lasts only a month. Just stay until the art show finishes, ok?" Zheng Jiawei suggested and didn't let him go.

The two persons began to debate heatedly. Of course, it was actually only Zheng Jiawei himself debating. Wu Hai had only a few words, "Order the flight ticket."

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Chapter 234: Tragic Wu Hai

"My dear Brother Hai, listen to me please. You can only leave after the press conference ends tomorrow." Zheng Jiawei seldom spoke toughly like this time.

"No way. You tell them that I'm sick and can't speak. Therefore, it's of no use even if I am there," while stroking his small mustache, Wu Hai said firmly.

"We can't do like that. The journalists tomorrow are said to be really tough to handle. Elder Brother, please stay, please." Zheng Jiawei was so anxious that he called Wu Hai whatever he could think of.

"Stop it. Ok, I stay." Wu Hai could cope with Zheng Jiawei very easily even if he cried. But once he called him elder brother, Wu Hai had no idea how to refuse this brother-in-law of him. After all, he had to show due respect to his sister, Wu Ling's feelings.

"Excellent. Listen, you go to the press conference tomorrow. After that, you can go back home for a meal and then come back at once. I can handle everything here," Zheng Jiawei murmured to Wu Hai.

"Ok. Now you can go," Wu Hai pulled Zheng Jiawei's hand down and then said with a tone of contempt.

"Where am I going?" Zheng Jiawei was a little stunned.

They lived together these few days so that he could take care of Wu Hai conveniently. Formerly, Wu Hai had often been unable to fall asleep due to stomachaches and needed to drink something warm, so Zheng Jiawei ordered a suite with a usable kitchen as usual this time.

Although Wu Hai slept very well this time and didn't wake up from the stomachache at midnight, they still lived together in a suite.

Now that Wu Hai let him go, Zheng Jiawei really didn't know what he meant.

"Order the flight ticket," said Wu Hai concisely.

"Got it. Don't worry. I have never forgotten about your instructions. But the way you talk really scared me just now. I just thought that you didn't allow me to sleep here." Zheng Jiawei patted on his chest in a manner of being scared.

"Hurry up." Said Wu Hai, who felt rather speechless.

"Ok, sure. Let me first go to run the hot water for you so that you can take a bath. Then you'll become more spirited. You have eaten too little these days." The first thing that Zheng Jiawei was concerned about was naturally Wu Hai's physical health.

"It doesn't matter. I feel I'm pretty good." Reminded by Zheng

Jiawei, Wu Hai suddenly realized the stomach troubles had not affected him for a long time.

"That's true. You look better recently." Zheng Jiawei suddenly went up to about 4 or 5cm far from Wu Hai's face. He stared at him for several minutes and then said affirmatively.

"Keep away from me." Wu Hai reached out his hands and directly pushed Zheng Jiawei's head away.

"Jesus. Xiao Hai, not only you look better, but also your skin becomes better too." Zheng Jiawei suddenly shouted in surprise.

"Talk to me normally." Sometimes, Wu Hai really couldn't endure Zheng Jiawei's noisy utterance.

"Ok. I'm going to run hot water for now." Said Zheng Jiawei in a pitiful tone.

"It's supposedly because the dishes of Boss Yuan are good." Wu Hai could apparently feel the ingredients of Yuan Zhou's restaurant were all top-notch ones. Therefore, he had never complained that the price was high. It's just that he didn't like his rules.

"I'm going to take Wu Ling there, too, to savor the dishes when we go back," as soon as he heard that, Zheng Jiawei said excitedly.

"Humm." Wu Hai nodded the head.

On the next day, Wu Hai attended the press conference earnestly. On the other side, Yuan Zhou was likewise checking his leave request notice.

"Boss, I wrote three different ones. Please check which one you need." Shen Min took out three pieces of A4 paper and handed them to Yuan Zhou.

"I also wrote three notifications. They are all here." Obviously, Zhou Jia and Shen Min had agreed on to write the notifications by each with the same number and same paper.

"Humm, let me have a look." Yuan Zhou picked all up and carefully read them, preparing to select one and paste it on the door.

The first two were all of the same pattern while the last one was nevertheless quite creative. It was too creative for Yuan Zhou to be able to understand the meaning.

Leave Request Notification: I caught a fever in the cold wind and felt that my throat was rather uncomfortable and is now constantly drowsy. Because of that, I am really unable to open the restaurant for business. I'm really sorry for any inconvenience."

"What does it mean?" Asked Yuan Zhou calmly while taking the notification that was written in the unintelligible ancient Chinese prose.

"I heard that from my senior classmate. It means that you are sick and is unable to open the restaurant for business." Shen Min carefully explained to him.

Leave requests all had similar reasons.

"We can't lie to the customers. Change it to another one." Said Yuan Zhou with a face of righteousness.

"Ok. Shall I write another one?" Shen Min asked tentatively.

"Humm. There's still time. Go ahead." Yuan Zhou agreed with a nod.

He continued to read the notifications written by Zhou Jia. The first one was almost the same to Shen Min's and the second one was that he needed to ask for leave due to some personal affairs. The last one was the most unreliable.

Leave Request Notification: I have been set up for a blind date by my family and hereby request for leave for 5 days in order to end my single status."

As for the remaining content, he didn't read anymore.

"Zhou Jia, do you feel your boss needs blind dates?" asked Yuan Zhou seriously.

"No, no. It's just because when I was working in a factory, some of my workmates wrote like that and then their application was approved. So....." Zhou Jia indicated that she didn't mean that intentionally. She just felt it easy to ask for leave that way and could guarantee it's true.

"Humm. Write again." Yuan Zhou gave the six notifications back to them and then got seated on his seat. Then, he began to think of the reasons to ask for leave.

Just in a little while, Shen Min first handed a notice to him, which was quite satisfactory.

Leave Request Notification: As I have been suffering from being too handsome at my current age, I get exhausted mentally and physically and hence need to calm down. Therefore, I hereby ask for 5 days of leave. The restaurant will be opened again for business after 5 days."

The signature area was left blank and to be filled out by Yuan Zhou.

"This one is nice." After reading, Yuan Zhou nodded primly with satisfaction.

"Really?" Shen Min got surprised immediately.

This leave request notification was written by her after she was

inspired by a joke told by her roommate last night. Never had she ever expected that her boss would use it.

"Humm. When you write the leave request notifications again in future, do it exactly according to the truth. Don't use the excuses like getting sick or having a blind date. A man has to be honest." Said Yuan Zhou seriously.

"Eh..." Zhou Jia and Shen Min felt quite speechless to Yuan Zhou.

"You can come over to help clean the entrance area in the next few days and check if the notification is well pasted by the way. The salary will be paid as usual." Said Yuan Zhou while taking the satisfactory leave request notification.

"Sure. Just be rest assured, boss." The two girls truly felt Yuan Zhou was the most handsome man at the moment. Any boss that paid salary during holidays was most handsome.

On that day, both Shen Min and Zhou Jia stayed there and busied themselves explaining to the customers the matter that Yuan Zhou wouldn't open the restaurant tomorrow. The effect of the advance notice was that the business of that day became much better. Luckily, Shen Min had only one class that day and helped Zhou Jia a lot.

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On the next day, Yuan Zhou set out on a journey to Yanfeng

Village with only a few pieces of luggage while Wu Hai likewise boarded the plane back to Chengdu with only a few pieces of luggage. They had barely missed each other.

Two and a half hours later, Wu Hai got off the plane and took a cab to Taoxi Road directly. He was a little surprised when he arrived at the cross of the side road.

"Why is it so quiet today?" Carrying a small bag on his shoulder, Wu Hai said in puzzlement.

However, Wu Hai had no time to think much about it due to his thirst for the delicacies. He just walked to Yuan Zhou's restaurant in big strides.

Nevertheless, the uncomfortable feeling came true. There was no one at the entrance but only a piece of white A4 paper pasted loosely on the firmly-shut door.

"Nooooooooooooo!" The abrupt shout of Wu Hai just scared quite a few sparrows to fly away.

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Chapter 235: Yuan Zhou Asking for Directions

"I need some time to calm down." In order to catch the lunch time, Wu Hai didn't even have breakfast before taking the plane and nor did he touch the in-flight meal. However, this was the result.

The white A4 paper pasted on the door was extraordinarily offending to his eyes. Wu Hai simply wanted to cry without any tears.

He took up the phone and then put it back. Taking a look at the date, he felt the profound malice of the universe. Obviously, Yuan Zhou had barely left.

"Duk Duk Duk", Wu Hai walked toward his art studio with an awfully slow pace. He prepared to stay for a few days before going back to the art show. How could he just go back without eating the dishes he had long expected?

As for Zheng Jiawei's ardent instructions before he came back, Wu Hai had already completely forgotten about them. A life without delicious dishes made no difference from a salted fish.

At that time, Yuan Zhou, who was cursed and remembered by Wu Hai, had arrived at the downtown not far from Yanfeng Village. As soon as walked out of the airport, he was surrounded and greeted by a crowd of people.

"Hey, bro. Where are you going? I have my own car here. It's very cheap," said a woman enthusiastically.

"Here. One-stop accommodation is provided," a man with spiky hair likewise went up and said.

"Listen to the young man. Are you here for travel or for visiting relatives?" This was a reliable person.

"Sorry, I'm going to Yanfeng Village." Yuan Zhou looked around at the crowd and waited for anybody to answer him.

"I'm well acquainted with that place. I'm just from that village. Are you going there to buy honey?" Once the man uttered, he straightforwardly brought out Yuan Zhou's purpose. However, Yuan Zhou was here not for buying but for collecting the honey by himself.

"How long does it take to go there?" Yuan Zhou asked concisely.

"Don't worry. It won't take long, only about 50 minutes. But you have to walk on your own for a short distance. It only takes half an hour to get there," said the man with spiky hair. He spoke fairly honestly.

Seeing somebody take that business, the others turned to other passengers.

"How much?" Upon hearing that he needed to walk for such a long distance, Yuan Zhou wasn't surprised at all. He just asked calmly.

"It's a motorcycle. Let's go to the backdoor over there to get on it. What about 50 RMB?" The spiky-hair man seemed to be a business man.

"Alright. Let's go." Carried on Yuan Zhou's shoulder was only a small travelling bag, in which there were only some clothes. He hadn't intended to stay for long here.

"Ok. Follow me." The spiky-hair man then led Yuan Zhou walking toward the backdoor.

Ahead of them were all paths with many different twist and turns. The distance wasn't long, but it was just a little remote. Luckily, Yuan Zhou had mastered the god-tier knife skill and hence basically wasn't afraid of that.

The spiky-hair man steadily led Yuan Zhou to his motorcycle, the most frequently used red motorcycle in the countryside that could barely carry four people. Nevertheless, two men were just good for the limited space.

"Get inside. We'll set out right away." The spiky-hair man got on the motorcycle first.

"Ok." Yuan Zhou nodded the head. As he didn't have much stuff,

he took a seat on the backs neatly.

"Wu Wu", the motorcycle sped up soon and went toward a path after leaving the main road.

Half an hour later, the motorcycle slowed down a little. At that time, Yuan Zhou started to ask for the directions.

"Do you know which area is the site of 96°28' east longitude and 25°07' north latitude located in your village?" Although Yuan Zhou knew it was a cliff after checking it up, he didn't really know the concrete site.

"What are talking about?" The spiky-hair man got slightly muddled and thought he didn't hear Yuan Zhou clearly because of the wind.

"I say if you know where's the place of 96°28' east longitude and 25°07' north latitude?" Then, Yuan Zhou said again slowly word by word.

"No, I have no idea." It happened to be a red traffic light. The man parked the motorcycle and took a look at Yuan Zhou with a quite speechless expression and then shook his head. Was he asking for directions or just making him awkward?

"No problem. I will go to your village and ask somebody else." With a nod, Yuan Zhou indicated that he understood.

The spiky-hair man felt a little depressed. He would rather write his name in a reverse direction if anybody knew about the place.

After quite a while, the spiky-hair man said out of good intentions, "Probably no one knows this place if you ask about this coordinates."

"The place is a cliff." Yuan Zhou thought for a while and felt that there were plenty of people without sense of direction in this world. They didn't even know about that. Therefore, he changed a way of asking.

"Around our village are all cliffs," the spiky-hair man said straightforwardly.

"Humm." Yuan Zhou answered.

Without speaking anything else, the spiky-hair man stopped talking and soon they arrived at the destination.

Only after arriving did Yuan Zhou understand why he needed to walk for some distance. Ahead of him were all mountain slopes and paths with no concrete road at all. With the muddy ground and pebbles scattered on the path, the motorcycle simply couldn't run on such roads.

"Here's your money. So I just need to walk to the end of the path?" Yuan Zhou handed the money to the man and inquired.

"Go along the path until you get to the first village. It's Yanfeng Village." The man pointed at the path and drove back on his motorcycle.

Yuan Zhou's training was quite effective. The distance that required approximately half an hour on foot to get there was easily finished in mere twenty minutes. When he got to the entrance to the village, he didn't appear to be tired at all.

There, some vigorous and forceful characters of Yanfeng Village were written. Yuan Zhou spent quite a little time to identify the name of the village which was written in traditional Chinese characters.

"I can only recognize a character of Yan. It's supposed to be Yanfeng Village." While stroking the forehead, Yuan Zhou said affirmatively.

"Are you here to buy honey?" A spirited and vigorous aged man suddenly went up to him and asked.

"Yes. I am prepared to buy some." Yuan Zhou nodded the head. He had to find some excuses.

"Come on in. Have a look in the house. Liuzi and his family have just gathered the honey and it's still unsold. Shall we go to check now?" The aged man greeted. As soon as he heard that Yuan Zhou was here to buy honey, he became more enthusiastic.

"Not for now. It's a little late. Is there any place for accommodation?" Yuan Zhou shook the head and asked.

"Don't worry about that. Of course, there are places for accommodation. Sometimes, the buyers are unable to get the honey and, hence, need to stay here for some days. But we only have family hotels here. Is that alright?" asked the aged man with the constant enthusiasm.

"No problem. Do you provide the accommodations at your place?" asked Yuan Zhou politely.

"Ha Ha. If you don't look down on the shabby house of this aged man, of course you can live here." The aged man was very glad when he heard Yuan Zhou intend to live in his house.

"Please prepare a room for me. Just name me a price. I will pay you when I leave." Yuan Zhou had sufficient social experiences. According to what he saw and heard, he knew that somebody had been here to buy the honey and therefore, the villagers weren't surprised with him coming to buy the honey personally.

"Don't worry. The price is almost the same to that of the hotels downtown." The aged man was fairly open-minded. It was not bad to get extra earnings.

"Humm. Thank you." Then Yuan Zhou followed the aged man into the village.

The small village was located at a level ground on the hillside. The houses in the village were mostly built with big rocks, appearing extraordinarily sturdy. When Yuan Zhou was walking into the village, the villagers were all quiet with only a few of them whispering privately.

"He's supposed to be here to buy the honey. It seems Liuzi's honey can eventually be sold now." A woman said to another person in a low voice.

"Yeah. I will let my third son get some fresh honey, too. Perhaps, this young man can also buy his." The person beside the woman had a quick mind and immediately thought of the good business.

Although Yuan Zhou heard their talk, he just kept silent and followed the aged man quietly.

"I heard there's a very famous dish in your village, isn't there?" Suddenly, Yuan Zhou recalled the information that he checked up through internet previously.

"Do you mean that dish? Of course there is. But you have to collect the materials by yourself." Once the aged man heard that, he said with a smile.

"No problem." Yuan Zhou immediately agreed.

Delicacies were naturally never so easy to be obtained.

Chapter 236: Imagined Delicacy

When the aged man heard that Yuan Zhou wanted to eat the famous dish of the village, he naturally felt very happy. However, famous dishes were usually rare. Anyone who would like to eat it had to look for the ingredients by themselves. This was the rule of the village.

"You are welcomed to savor it. You can go to the needle peak to try your fortune alone tomorrow. Somebody managed to pick it several months ago over there." The warm-hearted aged man showed to Yuan Zhou the mountain peak like a finger in the distance.

"Humm. Do you have the picture of the mushroom?" Before Yuan Zhou came here, he had once heard of a famous dish originated here.

With the name of "Wu Chicken", it was said to be a dish of the royal palace and was once served in the Banquet of Thousand Aged People held by Kang-hsi Emperor. As a result, it naturally had its own fame and rule. However, it had been lost for a long time.

The reason why the Yanfeng Village was famous was because every villager could cook this dish. Besides, there was once a chef working in the royal kitchen and he was also from the village.

"No, I don't. But it's very easy to recognize it. You'll know what the mushroom is like when you see it." The aged man revealed a mysterious smile after he finished.

"Ok." Yuan Zhou nodded the head.

"Here we are. This is the house of this aged man. The contiguous room is for you. You can prepare some foodstuff and cook in the kitchen. The oven is over there." The aged man pointed at the neighboring two stone rooms and then at the small shed behind them and explained one by one.

"Thank you." Yuan Zhou nodded the head and thanked him.

Following a sound of "zhi ya", Yuan Zhou pushed open the wooden door. Unexpectedly, the room was quite clean. There was only a stone bed, a stone table and an empty wooden box inside.

"It's clean, isn't it?" The aged man stood behind Yuan Zhou and asked him proudly.

"Yeah, it's very clean. Thank you." Yuan Zhou nodded the head and went up to put down the backpack.

"Of course. I clean the room every day. Those people like to live in my house very much." After a proud smile, the aged man turned around and left.

He put down his stuff, took out his phone and checked the time. It was 3:00 in the afternoon. China Mobile was powerful. Even in the mountain area, there was still one signal bar.

"Time for lunch." Yuan Zhou had been travelling around all the time in the morning and hence, didn't get time to eat.

With a sound of "Peng", he shut the door and prepared to go out with only a wallet.

"Young man, I cooked a bowl of noodles just now. Do you eat it?" While the aged man was coming out from the small shed with a white porcelain bowl in his hand, he just bumped into Yuan Zhou who was walking toward him and then asked him enthusiastically.

"Great. Thanks a lot." Yuan Zhou received the big bowl, inside of which there were some white noodles and a poached egg as well as some chopped green onion.

"I especially put some beef tallow inside. Just try the taste. It's the specialty here in our village." The aged man revealed an expression of pride. He presumably went to cook the noodles after he left just now as Yuan Zhou had told him that he didn't have lunch.

"Yes. It smells good." Yuan Zhou nodded the head.

"All right. Just eat it up. But I have to suggest that you go to look for the golden mushroom early if you want to eat that dish." The aged man waved his hand and returned to his own room.

"Many thanks." After thanking him, Yuan Zhou put the bowl on the table and began to eat.

Actually, beef tallow wasn't really suitable to put into the bland noodles. However, Yuan Zhou felt the noodles were sweet and fragrant as well as chewy. Therefore, he ate the noodles up and even drank up the broth in the end.

As he had lunch too late, he ate it slowly and eventually finished the meal at 4:00 pm. He then went out of the room and washed the bowl first. After that, he started on a journey to the needle peak.

As far as Yuan Zhou knew, the dish was actually the stewed chicken with the mushroom. The mushroom was called the Golden Mushroom.

This mushroom was quite suitable to grow in the soil rich in metals. It was said that if one could find the wild Golden Mushroom, he found the gold mine. That's why people called this kind of mushroom as Golden Mushroom. What it meant could easily be seen.

The shape of the mushroom was unknown to him. He only knew the taste was incomparably fresh and delicate. Normally, mushrooms grown in the soil rich in metal weren't supposed to be edible. Nevertheless, it was not so for this mushroom. It not only had an incomparably delicate taste but also tasted smooth and tender while being eaten. The taste was extremely great.

The very dish served in the Banquet of Thousand Aged People used Bian Chicken, also known as Youyu Chicken in Shanxi Province, as the main food material. It was actually Daggu Chicken

brought in from Fengtian area when Suidong Siqi Region was reclaimed and cultivated. After domestication, the chicken multiplied, expanded and then formed a distinct breed with the characteristic of decent meat quality, good adaptability and cold resistance. It was especially suitable to stew the chicken soup.

"Ka Cha Ka Cha", Yuan Zhou walked unhurriedly on the small path covered with pebbles all along and was occasionally greeted by some people.

"Are you here to buy the honey? When will you start?" The curious middle-aged women asked him one after another.

"I won't buy much. So don't wait for me," Yuan Zhou straightforwardly said.

"You must be here to pick the Golden Mushroom. Don't linger here too late. The mountain paths are bad." When they heard Yuan Zhou did not intend to buy much, they didn't get annoyed. Instead, they reminded him kindly.

"Humm, thank you." Yuan Zhou thanked them while walking forward.

"You are welcome. Go back early." While the villagers' words were still lingering in his ears, Yuan Zhou had walked far.

The needle peak was virtually not too far from the village. But as soon as Yuan Zhou arrived at the place, Yuan Zhou understood

what the aged man meant.

This needle peak was covered with pointed stones everywhere. Shadows of the plants would be very conspicuous. However, people would get hurt on the feet due to slightest carelessness if they walked on the pointed stones. Yuan Zhou's hands and eyes were flexible, sensitive, and well cooperated with each other, but the cooperation of his feet and eyes were not so good.

"Si", Yuan Zhou gasped. In just a little while, he had gotten hurt several times. As for the Golden Mushroom, he hadn't seen even one of them.

There was nobody else on the needle peak at that time. Therefore, Yuan Zhou had to look for the mushroom carefully alone.

"It's truly like a mermaid that walks with pain for every step. It's just that there's no princess ahead waiting for me to marry," when Yuan Zhou hurt his feet again, he said with a sense of mockery.

It was gradually getting dark. Not to mention the Golden Mushroom, even a green plant wasn't seen by him. Around the small needle peak, Yuan Zhou had only likewise searched at this place by half.

At that time, he intended to return on the same route. Of course, he had also thought of going back along other routes, but he found his learning abilities had been greatly improved. For the short distance, he didn't get hurt anymore.

It took Yuan Zhou only forty minutes to walk from Yanfeng Village to the needle peak, but 1 hour to go back as the bloody blisters on his feet made him ache. Therefore, he walked not so quickly as before.

While hurting on the way back, Yuan Zhou turned on the mode of self-mockery, "It seems I have become delicate now. Such a short distance surprisingly gives my feet bloody blisters."

Yuan Zhou felt rather speechless when he saw the three bloody blisters on the sole of his feet. He put on the shoes and headed directly for the village without piercing the bloody blisters.

When he barely arrived at the house he rented, Yuan Zhou found a boy standing at the door.

"You are back, uncle." He appeared to be only 5 or 6 years old. Standing in the dim light, Yuan Zhou found there seemed to be some red spots on the boy's face.

However, Yuan Zhou cared more about how the boy called him.

"You should call me elder brother," said Yuan Zhou with an expressionless face.

"But you are much older than me. I should call you uncle," said the boy naturally. He wasn't shy of strangers at all.

"I'm not older than you that much. Just call me elder brother." Yuan Zhou insisted.

"Uncle, you are obviously much elder than me," the boy reached out his hand and measured his height with Yuan Zhou's and then said firmly.

"I'm just taller than you. Call me elder brother," said Yuan Zhou persistently.

"I'm here to ask if you want to eat?" Only by then did the boy recall his own purpose of coming here. He paid no attention to Yuan Zhou's request and still called him uncle.

"Yes, of course. Show me the way, please. Call me elder brother." Yuan Zhou continued talking to him.

"Well, you are so wordy, uncle." The boy took an impatient look at Yuan Zhou, meaning approximately, "You are so naive."

Then, Yuan Zhou became depressed...

Chapter 237: Taste of Royal Dishes

The small boy took Yuan Zhou to the house of the aged man next to the rented place. Only then did Yuan Zhou find the aged man had an adult son and daughter-in-law in his family. The boy was his grandson.

Yuan Zhou swore that he wasn't angry at all with the boy not calling him elder brother. How was it possible that he would enter a dispute with a little boy? Yes, he was definitely a generous person.

"Uncle, sit here." The abrupt words of the little boy pulled Yuan Zhou back from his thoughts.

"Humm." Yuan Zhou turned his head and signaled the boy that he should call him elder brother.

By then, however, the boy had already walked to his parents to take the credit.

"Let's have dinner. These are all simple dishes. Just help yourself to them. I know that you bring only a small bag and surely don't bring anything to eat," said the aged man wisely.

"Yeah, ok, thank you so much." After the small talk, Yuan Zhou got seated.

On the table were indeed simple dishes including a plate of Garlic

Fried Egg, Sauteed Chinese Greens, Shredded Potatoes and a pot of vegetable soup with a pleasant verdant green color. There weren't any meat dishes.

The taste was pretty good.

"Is the taste good? All the city dwellers said the dishes over here tasted good. We never spray any agriculture chemicals on the vegetables," the aged man said smilingly.

"Yes, the taste is really fantastic." Yuan Zhou nodded his head.

After the meal, Yuan Zhou conveniently paid them the money for the total of four days. Yuan Zhou felt the duration was sufficient to reach his target.

Certainly, he didn't forget what he had aimed for this time.

"The cliff you have mentioned hasn't produced honey for many years." His son and daughter-in-law had taken the little boy home to sleep after the meal.

People here lived a life of working after sunrise and sleep after sunset.

"I want to climb down the cliff in person and have a look. Do you know if anybody can lead the way?" said Yuan Zhou sincerely.

"You want to climb down alone?" The aged man was a little surprised at first and soon he felt relieved.

In his opinion, Yuan Zhou wasn't different from those who came for fun and thought it interesting to tie himself to a rope and climb down the cliff. They didn't know how dangerous it was during the process. The slightest carelessness would probably make them fall down the cliff and lose their lives.

"Young man, I suggest you not do that. You are not experienced and would put yourself in danger." The aged man told him the risk of climbing down the cliff and, in the end, suggested.

"I know. But I still want to climb down and have a look." Yuan Zhou felt it better to collect the delicious food stuff by himself, of course.

"You went to the needle peak today. Your feet must be in pain, right? Yet, if you intend to climb down the cliff, it would be more tiring than climbing the peak." The aged man knew about these people very well. They would never walk in the intermountain areas where pointed stones were scattered when they just came here.

"Yeah, there are some bloody blisters." Although Yuan Zhou hurt a lot, it was nevertheless bearable.

"Are you sure you still want to go there?" asked the aged man again.

"Humm, I will climb down by myself," after a nod, Yuan Zhou said firmly.

"Alright. Let me find someone to lead you there. You just pay him some money tomorrow." The aged man had only to agree when he realized Yuan Zhou's strong determination.

"By the way, is it more likely to find the golden mushrooms at the mountain pass of the needle peak?" Asked Yuan Zhou when he stood up and recalled the rumors that he had heard today.

"It's true. People that are lucky enough mostly got the mushrooms there. However, the mushrooms can also be found in the neighboring areas, yet it will be more difficult." The aged man explained to Yuan Zhou carefully.

"Is it more likely to find the mushrooms in deeper areas?" Yuan Zhou inquired the aged man again.

"Absolutely. Though the path is very hard to pass," the aged man said affirmatively.

However, the aged man was a little surprised. It seemed that Yuan Zhou prepared to go to the needle peak again tomorrow. As far as he knew, the place was the only site where the golden mushrooms grew most. But because the path around was much too difficult to pass, guests from outside looked for the mushrooms in the peripheral area at best and changed to another place when they failed. They would never go there for the second time. After all, even the local people didn't like to go there due to its discomfort.

Nevertheless, Yuan Zhou behaved in a way that he wouldn't give up at all before finding the mushrooms. Looking at Yuan Zhou's back, the aged man shook his head.

Yuan Zhou then said goodbye and went back to his room to wash up and sleep. After a night of sound sleep, he got up at 5:00 in the early morning as usual. Now that he was travelling outside now, he only exercised for a little while. After that, he left the house for the golden mushrooms. The difference between a foodie and a good big eater lay not only in their appearance, but also in the persistence in the delicate dishes.

Not to mention Yuan Zhou was both a foodie and a chef.

God helped those who helped themselves. Having obtained another 4 or 5 bloody blisters on his feet, Yuan Zhou finally found a trace of the golden mushrooms.

They grew between two rocks. With the light yellow canopy and white stalk, they were quite inconspicuous. Yuan Zhou finally found them only after he confirmed it again and again. The most peculiar thing was that its canopy grew upward with the shape of a small liqueur glass. The creases were distinct from each other and there was even some crystal dew in the canopy.

"Hu", Yuan Zhou let out a sigh of relief and slightly paused.

Finally, he made it. Yuan Zhou took out a wooden knife and cut the mature golden mushrooms before putting it in a cloth bag

prepared beforehand. That way, the mushroom could be thoroughly prevented from any damage and would also have good ventilation conditions.

Since the first plant was found, the second was naturally not a problem for him. After he collected half a bag of the mature golden mushrooms enough for one meal, Yuan Zhou stopped looking for more. It was naturally better to eat the mushrooms fresh.

Therefore, he quickened his pace on the way back to the village.

The first thing when Yuan Zhou arrived at the village was to go to an old woman called Aunt Lin to boil them up into a soup, regardless of the time being still early for lunch. Of course, Yuan Zhou inquired a lot before he eventually found this woman, who was said to be the second best candidate following the royal chef.

Yuan Zhou had naturally thought of asking the former royal chef to cook, but he was visiting his friends out of the village currently. The aged man didn't know when he would come back, either. Therefore, Yuan Zhou had to drop the thought.

"Aunt Lin, sorry to bother you." Yuan Zhou took out the cloth bag carefully and handed them to her gently.

"Young man, you really know so much as to put them in the cloth bag. Just wait. With my culinary skills, I can guarantee the soup will be awfully delicious." Aunt Lin agreed with a smile.

She started to kill a chicken immediately and make the soup. The most advantage of the soup was its freshness, with the fresh chicken, fresh mushroom and the fresh soup.

Three hours later, when the soup was finally ready, lunch time had already passed.

"Young man, here's your Wu Chicken Soup." Aunt Lin walked to him while carrying a big steaming hot pot.

"Thank you." Yuan Zhou then received the pot hurriedly.

"You are welcome. The soup tastes the best in winter, but it's also delicious at this time of the year. It's mainly because the mushrooms you collected are extraordinarily good." With a smile, Aunt Lin gave him an empty bowl and a bowl of plain rice and then left.

"Thank you so much." Yuan Zhou got seated after saying thanks to the woman.

The fragrance of the soup rushed directly into Yuan Zhou's nose, along with the fragrance of the chicken and the freshness of the boiled golden mushroom. The soup appeared a milky white color while the boiled golden mushrooms took on a yellow jade color. It was just like a top-notch field-yellow stones floating on the soup.

With a smile appearing on Yuan Zhou's solemn face, he picked up the spoon and directly scooped the soup into his mouth to savor it.

However, the smile on Yuan Zhou's face gradually vanished while the soup entered Yuan Zhou's throat.

For this meal, Yuan Zhou ate up the chicken meat and drank up the soup in only half an hour. His eyebrows knit in a frown more severely at the latter part of the meal. The taste totally failed in matching with the name. He could only appraise the dish as medium.

Having finished the soup, Yuan Zhou put the money under the bowl silently and then left.

"Although the taste of the golden mushrooms is fresh and delicate, the dish isn't as delicious as imagined." Yuan Zhou couldn't help sighing.

"It's again the taste of the golden mushroom. People are truly persistent." While Yuan Zhou was contemplating on the way back, he was suddenly interrupted by a voice.

He raised the head and took a look. It was an old man, who was dressed in a Chinese tunic suit and had a goatee on his jaw, not far from Yuan Zhou. The easy-going appearance was ruined by the discontented expression on his face, which made him appear slightly fierce.

"Young man, did you find these mushrooms?" The old man turned the head and stared at Yuan Zhou.

"Yes. I found them." Yuan Zhou nodded the head.

"God's good gifts are simply recklessly wasted." The old man turned around and left immediately after he gave the simple remark.

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Chapter 238: Royal Chef

The old man was dressed decently, but he spoke in an absolutely inconsiderate manner and, furthermore, was quite blunt.

Nonetheless, Yuan Zhou wasn't angry at all. Instead, he just asked peacefully, "Could I know who's speaking please?"

"It's none of your business to know who I am," with a frown, the old man turned around and prepared to leave after saying that.

"You must be Mr. Ma, aren't you?" said Yuan Zhou affirmatively.

"Do you know me?" The old man turned his head and asked him with an unfriendly tone.

"No, it's just my instinct." Yuan Zhou was also a person of frankness, therefore he replied straightforwardly.

"Humph." The old man grunted and then directly turned around and left, paying no attention to Yuan Zhou.

"Excuse me. Could you please wait a moment?" Yuan Zhou went up for a few steps and directly walked to the old man despite his cold face.

"I have nothing to talk with you. You'd better return wherever you come from." Dressed in the crease-free Chinese tunic suit,

every step the old man took was steady and he just kept his head upright. He appeared to be quite influential.

"Mr. Ma, you seem to know my purpose. So let me make it short. I wish I could have the honor to savor the dishes cooked by you personally." Yuan Zhou revealed an expression of solemnity and seriousness.

"Huh, this young man really talks big. Why would I cook dishes for you?" Although it was an interrogative sentence, the old spoke in an affirmative tone.

"You said just now that it's a reckless waste of the god's gift to cook that way. So I don't think you would like to see the delicious food ingredients recklessly wasted?" said Yuan Zhou affirmatively.

"That has nothing to do with me. Get away from me." Without knowing why, the old man suddenly got angry and directly drove Yuan Zhou away.

Seeing the determined manner of Mr. Ma, Yuan Zhou found it inappropriate to go up and question him anymore. He could only to return to the house that he rented. After all, unwillingness cannot produce desired results.

"Ha Ha. I heard you were scolded by Mr. Ma just now," said the aged man at a distance with an ironic tone.

"Not really. It's just that he doesn't agree to cook the chicken

soup for me." No secret could be kept in such a small village. Therefore, Yuan Zhou just admitted frankly.

"Young man, you are truly brave. But Mr. Ma isn't the right person. He hasn't cooked dishes for a long time," the aged man said after a sigh with emotion.

"Why?" Yuan Zhou made a close observation of Mr. Ma today and found he was healthy with a rosy face and besides talked vigorously. There should be no problem with his physical health.

"I have no idea about that. The old man is fairly weird. He never cooks and yet always complains that dishes cooked by others are terrible," the aged man knocked his long tobacco pipe and then said peacefully.

"Does Mr. Ma go to other people's home for his three meals?" Yuan Zhou was a little curious.

After all, he was a chef and still preferred to cook dishes for himself to eat unless he heard rumors of delicious dishes at other places. No one could match him in culinary skills.

"Yeah, that's true. The old man is truly eccentric. But I do know his ancestor was a royal chef and he indeed cooked for the state banquet before. Otherwise, who would believe and respect him so much?" The aged man smoked the dried tobacco leaves heavily, making the surroundings smoggy.

"State banquet?" Yuan Zhou had never heard of that before. He only knew Mr. Ma was originally a Manchurian and from one of the eight most influential families in ancient times. His ancestor had cooked dishes for the emperors before and he also followed along to learn the culinary skills. It was said that he was a great master in cooking.

"Yes, absolutely. When he came back to the village at first, all the villagers were quite excited. But now, no one likes to talk to him anymore." The aged man continued to smoke and meanwhile talked about the old man while Yuan Zhou listened to him seriously.

Occasionally, he asked some questions. "Why don't they want to talk with him?"

"After he came back, he refused to teach anybody his culinary skills, saying that it was a waste of time if they didn't have the natural endowments. What's more, he never cooked by himself and just had his meals around in other people's home every day, not to mention he often complained harshly about their dishes," said the aged man indignantly. It seemed that he had also suffered from the old man's bad temper.

"Thank you. I got it." Hearing the aged man's words, he suddenly thought of an idea that could help him to reach his goal.

"What do you understand?" The aged man was made puzzled by Yuan Zhou.

"Could you lend me your stove and the food ingredients?" Instead of answering him, Yuan Zhou asked sincerely.

"Ok, sure. The ingredients are all in the cabinet. You just pay for what you use. Certainly, I will not charge you for cooking the noodles." The aged man was rather generous.

"I am preparing to cook the Clear Broth Noodle Soup. Do you want a bowl?" Yuan Zhou was a little embarrassed when he heard cooking noodles wouldn't be charged, therefore he asked.

"That's great. The noodle soup is easily prepared. I want a small bowl to fill my stomach," the aged man set down the long tobacco pipe and said leisurely.

"Uncle, I also want one." Before Yuan Zhou answered the aged man, the voice of the small boy came from the side.

"Ok. A small bowl of the noodle soup for you." Yuan Zhou indicated that he didn't bear grudges at all. As the boy was little, he couldn't eat it up even if Yuan Zhou cooked more.

"Thanks, uncle." The boy answered with courtesy. Despite the several red spots on his face, he still looked lovable.

What Yuan Zhou intended to cook was naturally the Clear Broth Noodle Soup, the specific type in his restaurant, although there weren't the same flour and water. The wheat flour produced here was also purely natural and pollution-free while the water was

likewise from the clear springs of the mountain. Plus, with Yuan Zhou's craftsmanship, the noodles would definitely be quite delicious.

The cooking procedures of the Clear Broth Noodle Soup were quite familiar to Yuan Zhou. He straightforwardly cooked about three bowls of the noodle soup at one time and scooped it into two big and one small white porcelain bowls.

The white noodles with a hint of yellow, the clear broth and the gradually spreading fragrance all made people drool.

"Whoops. Aren't there any eggs inside? The chopped green onions are also in the cabinet. Didn't you find them?" The aged man received the bowl and said with puzzlement.

"Yes, I found them. But the noodles don't need those things." It was not a problem for Yuan Zhou who was good at looking for things to find them. However, Yuan Zhou was quite confident. They were not needed to flavor the noodles. He only required the taste and chewiness of the wheat itself.

"Alright. Let's just eat like that." The aged man wasn't really picky with that. He put down the bowl and prepared to eat.

"May I borrow your bowls?" Asked Yuan Zhou tentatively.

"No problem. Take it." The aged man said generously.

"Take care, uncle," said the little boy obediently, yet still calling him uncle.

"Thank you." Yuan Zhou slightly nodded the head and thanked them. He took out a plate to cover the bowl in case the dirt got into the bowl and affected the chewiness and taste.

Naturally, this bowl of noodle soup was prepared for Mr. Ma. Yuan Zhou believed his own culinary skills to be top-notch and he might be able to eat the royal dish if his culinary skills could be improved to a higher level.

Human's desire for foods was infinite. Numerous people advanced wave upon wave to enjoy the freshness and delicacy of even the poisonous globefish.

Yuan Zhou, nevertheless, would go great lengths in order to eat the royal dish too. For example, Yuan Zhou felt he had performed about 120% of his abilities, thus was awfully satisfied with himself.

It was very easy to find Mr. Ma's home as he was truly a famous person. In just 5 minutes, Yuan Zhou walked quickly to the gate of Mr. Ma's home.

"Mr. Ma, here's your lunch." It was 2:20 in the afternoon at that time. Mr. Ma presumably hadn't had lunch yet since he just came back from outside.

"What? Somebody offers me food voluntarily today? I'm not

lame yet." Every time Mr. Ma talked, they weren't nice words. It seemed that he talked that way to everyone rather than to Yuan Zhou alone as if to say "I don't look down on you alone, but to everybody."

"Please, try it." Yuan Zhou spoke little. He wasn't a person who was good at interacting with others.

"It's you, again." Mr. Ma grunted. Yet, he didn't refuse the offer and directly sat down to eat the noodles calmly.

However, the grandfather and grandson could no longer calm down...

Chapter 239: The Reward of Royal Jelly

"Grandpa, that uncle definitely doesn't know how to make noodles. Look, there isn't even an egg in it," said the little boy behind Yuan Zhou's back. He was quite considerate and thus didn't want Yuan Zhou to be upset.

"Just take it as filling the stomach. It doesn't look bad," the aged man stirred the noodles with the chopsticks and said indifferently. Anyway, they were all noodles and didn't have much difference from others; therefore, the noodles eaten by them currently wasn't supposed to be too bad.

"Ok, I'm gonna eat it, grandpa." The little boy started to eat after saying that.

China had been a society of agricultural civilization and people laid much emphasis on cooked wheaten food. Moreover, noodles were one of the featured foods in China as there were always different noodles in different regions. For example, the noodles with thick gravy and noodles with ten side dishes in Shandong Region; the noodles with preserved vegetables and noodles with fried eel slices & shrimps in the Suhang Region.

The noodles were also popular in the aged man's village where every family stocked up on flour. When Yuan Zhou first came to the village, he was fed with the noodles. Therefore, the grandpa and grandson were surprised once they swallowed the noodles cooked by Yuan Zhou.

"Grandpa, the noodles are so delicious," said the little boy excitedly with a flushed face. After that, he began to eat the noodles quickly without stop following the sound of "Slurp Slurp".

On the other hand, the aged man felt the difference to be even more conspicuous. Having eaten various noodles in his lifetime, he could well distinguish between good and bad. Unlike ordinary noodles that were directly swallowed into the stomach, the noodles cooked by Yuan Zhou needed to be carefully savored for its chewiness.

There was much broth in the bowl and it totally covered the noodles inside. This was just the way to eat noodles in Yangzhou region. Such a way of seeing only the broth but no noodles could be the best way to arouse people's appetite.

The more they ate the noodles, the tastier they felt the noodles were. The texture became slightly different as the time progressed, but they didn't feel any sense of softness at all. Instead, what filled their mouth was the rigid and smooth texture.

As for Mr. Ma, he wasn't that easy-going at all. Even if the dish was very delicious, he wouldn't say any good words, let alone that Yuan Zhou had demands for him.

"The culinary skills are truly not bad. The taste of the noodles, however, can't match with this craftsmanship." With only a few words, Mr. Ma cooled down Yuan Zhou's eager desire of asking for his help.

Compared with the aged man, Yuan Zhou felt his character was undoubtedly pretty good and so was his temperament. Meanwhile, he also understood why Mr. Ma wasn't liked by the villagers here. He really spoke in a special way that made people feel awkward.

"So would you like to cook that dish now?" without any expression, Yuan Zhou took a deep breath and then said calmly.

"Why would I do that? Just because of the imperfect noodle soup?" Mr. Ma revealed an expression of discontent.

"The food ingredients were unable to meet the requirements. However, my craftsmanship could completely make up for the disadvantage," said Yuan Zhou confidently.

"What do you come here for?" Mr. Ma shifted the subject straightforwardly.

"What do you think I'm here for?" Yuan Zhou likewise didn't answer him directly.

"Only two things are worth being remembered here. This old man and the royal jelly." Mr. Ma was awfully confident.

"That's right. Do you like to cook the dish personally?" Yuan Zhou was fairly courteous.

A person that had god-tier craftsmanship deserved people's respect while an old man with god-tier craftsmanship was worthy

of respect and careful treatment.

"I won't cook," Mr. Ma also answered firmly this time.

Then Yuan Zhou had only to take the empty bowl back to the host family. Despite the refusal, Yuan Zhou still sent to him another bowl of noodles in the evening. Of course, such petty favors weren't that attractive to persuade Mr. Ma.

Another reason that made Yuan Zhou cook the noodles again in the evening was the request of the little boy.

"Uncle, can you cook the noodles again in the evening? I ate too fast at noon and didn't leave any for my parents." When the little boy found Yuan Zhou, he appeared pretty embarrassed. The little flushed face made the red spots appear more obvious.

"Humm," Yuan Zhou answered without giving him any positive or negative answer.

"Mum told me good things should be shared. Thank you, elder brother." The little boy was very smart. He directly called him elder brother when he found Yuan Zhou didn't agree to his request.

It was then that Yuan Zhou understood why the boy called him uncle intentionally. In spite of that, he still agreed at last. After all, he was an aloof person who didn't bear grudges.

As the proverb goes, he who receives a gift sells his liberty. The aged man informed Yuan Zhou in the early morning next day that he had found a guy who would bring him down the cliff.

"Young man, this is the selected person, Liuzi. He has the best skills in gathering honey. You'll be safe with him. Pay him 500 RMB and he will guarantee your safety." The price offered by the aged man was quite good.

It was riskier to take a totally inexperienced person to go down the cliff.

"Ok. Thank you so much." Yuan Zhou nodded the head and thanked him.

"Let's go. Follow me." Liuzi was a man with short spiky hair and swarthy belly muscles. He was short and spoke little and seemed to be an honest man.

"Sorry to bother you. I need to go to the site with the coordinates of 96°28' east longitude and 25°07' north latitude, specifically, a cliff." Following Liuzi, Yuan Zhou told him earnestly.

"I know. The aged man has told me about that. It's an abandoned cliff that hasn't produce the honey for a long time." Liuzi was surprised at first for one second and then calmed down and said peacefully.

"You know the path, right? Fantastic." Yuan Zhou nodded the

head. He was quite satisfied that the guide knew about the coordinates.

Nevertheless, the reserved guide Liuzi truly didn't know what to answer this time. Apparently, this boss had thought that he was clear of the so-called coordinates. Being too lazy to explain to Yuan Zhou, Liuzi just led him to the abandoned cliff that he had mentioned.

The stones were basically lime white in Yanfeng Village. But here at the clifftop, the color was quite different. They were all yellow stones and thus the cliff was very easy to be found. It was the only place that had the largest contrast in color compared to its surroundings. Yuan Zhou stood at the clifftop and almost couldn't open his eyes due to the strong wind.

"Daub this thing on your exposed skin in case the bees sting you." Liuzi handed to Yuan Zhou a plastic bag which was filled with some black and yellow stuff and had a slight sour taste. Yuan Zhou couldn't tell what it was in that short time.

"Alright." Yuan Zhou was dressed simply with a gray long-sleeve shirt and canvas pants that was waterproof and smooth. That way, the bees were unable to get inside and sting him.

While Yuan Zhou was daubing the medicine, Liuzi was preparing the ropes at the side quietly. Occasionally, Yuan Zhou went up and helped him. Because of his flexible fingers, he didn't give any trouble.

Liuzi was a little surprised with that. But since he had seen those professional travelers who also knew about the skills, he didn't bother to ask Yuan Zhou. Of course, Yuan Zhou learned the skills by watching Liuzi do so.

"Luckily, I don't have the acrophobia." When they were about to go down the cliff, Yuan Zhou murmured and then followed Liuzi climbing down slowly.

At that time, the system suddenly turned up after keeping silent for a long time and showed him a map. With only a few lines, the map appeared to be very clear.

"System, you know I don't have a good sense of directions. How can I understand what the map means?" At the moment that he was hanging with a rope by the cliff, Yuan Zhou still couldn't help complaining about the map of the system.

Then immediately, the map turned into a 3D map. Only by then did Yuan Zhou become clear where the reward of the system lay.

"Liuzi, can we go toward the left?" Yuan Zhou took hold of the rope with one hand and pointed to the left with the other.

"Yes, sure." Liuzi looked around and nodded the head.

Subsequently, he began to climb down toward the left direction with Yuan Zhou. The System, nevertheless, turned on the navigational system that showed only the arrow tip without

making any sound in case Yuan Zhou complained again that he was unable to comprehend the map.

Compared with Qiandu's map, however, this one was really much better. As long as he deviated from the right course, it reminded him at once. It was quite different from the Qiandu map which never reminded anyone even after going in a wrong direction for a long distance. Therefore, Yuan Zhou managed to find a honeycomb smoothly.

It was a medium-sized honeycomb in which the Yanfeng Bees were flying around.

On seeing the flying bees, Yuan Zhou felt rather terrible!

Chapter 240: Functions of Propolis

"Humming", the bees were flying all around in front of him. The bees were like a small kidney bean in the size with their black hair clearly seen. At that time, Yuan Zhou suddenly recalled some words like wasp waist and long legs, which best applied to these bees.

On the plump and impressive chest was its sharp mouthpart. The soft and thin waist enabled it to sting people from various angles. The slender and strong legs helped the bee to attach its body tightly to the people when it stung them.

"Sir, there are too many bees. Let me go to collect it," said Liuzi lightly, with his mouth basically shut when he talked. It was presumably one of the unique techniques of collecting the honey.

"Wait a moment," answered Yuan Zhou with a low voice while tilting his head toward him.

Naturally, Yuan Zhou was enquiring the system at that time.

"System, the bees look fairly ferocious. Since it is the reward, will it sting?" Yuan Zhou asked earnestly in his heart.

The system displayed, "Xiongyi bee is capable of producing a lot of honey and can likewise produce a lot of royal jelly. It's the ideal breed to produce both honey and royal jelly as well as the pollen."

"Xiongyi Bee is in bright orange color. It is quite conspicuous and adorable. The size of the worker bee is big. The first three terga at the abdomen appear to be orange with a black annulus on each of them while the following three are in black color. Except for the last two terga at the abdomen, the remaining ones are usually in orange color. This is its most distinct characteristic."

"Besides, they live a life of social nature. There is one queen bee, many drones and worker bees in every honeycomb. They are hot-tempered and tend to get infuriated easily. Moreover, they have two stingers that are poisonous at the tail. After being stung, the affected part will usually be itchy and become red and swollen."

"So what? Will it sting me? This is the main point." Only by its appearance, Yuan Zhou knew the creature was a tough opponent. They were so big and moreover flying around him with a sound of "Humming".

The system displayed, "This creature is a natural species. So please be careful, host."

"Ho Ho. It seems that I'm going to die young if I venture to collect the honey," said Yuan Zhou inwardly while looking at the numerous bees. As a blossoming flower of the motherland and a future somebody, he can't take the risk.

After keeping silent for quite a while, the System then displayed, "This creature produces propolis, which is neutral in nature and tastes bitter and spicy with a hint of sweetness. It has the functions of moisturizing the skin, promoting granulation, diminishing inflammation and relieving pain. The propolis can be used to

relieve the affected part."

"You are really so considerate." Yuan Zhou indicated that he truly didn't know what to answer.

"What do you think?" Having waited for Yuan Zhou to speak for a long time, Liuzi thought that he was considering the matter and then asked.

"Let's do the work together. You teach me," Yuan Zhou looked at the flying clustering bees and said with a determined tone.

"Ok." Liuzi didn't try to persuade him anymore and just answered with a nod.

Even if Yuan Zhou had been able to make the top-notch delicacies apart from his swift hands and sharp eyes, and even applied a repugnant paste to bees on his exposed skin, he still couldn't resist the ardent love from the bees. Just in a little while, his pretty face was covered with several bulges.

"Hurry up. Let's leave now." Liuzi went up and dragged Yuan Zhou, who had collected the honey, climbing up the clifftop like monkeys. Since the enemies suddenly disappeared, the bees soon scattered away.

"Thank you," Yuan Zhou took a breath and then said carefully.

"You are welcome." Having estimated the time, Liuzi stood up

and shook his head.

"We have a good harvest." Taking the honey of almost the whole honeycomb, Yuan Zhou said happily.

"There are still many pupae. You can fry them in oil." A smile was revealed on Liuzi's swarthy face. He was supposedly recalling the wonderful taste of the fried pupae.

"Humm. They all belong to you," said Yuan Zhou generously.

"You can daub the medicine on you face," with a smile, Liuzi pointed at the big bulges on Yuan Zhou's face and said.

"Don't worry. The propolis inside can cure them," Yuan Zhou said to him while pointing at the honeycomb.

"Yeah, right." Liuzi nodded the head affirmatively.

"Let's go back." Yuan Zhou looked at the cliff and began to untie the rope around his waist, preparing to go back to the village.

"Ok." Liuzi helped to clear everything up.

Then, the two people walked back along the same route.

On the way back, Yuan Zhou carried the honeycomb on his head.

Although it was heavy, Yuan Zhou felt it well deserved his efforts. It had to. After all, he had sacrificed his pretty face to get the honeycomb.

Of course, if it wasn't because the propolis was solid at the beginning, he would have already daubed it so that he needn't carry the several big bulges on his face.

"Uncle, are you also sick?" when Yuan Zhou and Liuzi walked into the aged man's home, the little boy came out of the house and asked Yuan Zhou in surprise.

"Nope." Yuan Zhou denied.

"Then what's the matter of the big bulge on your face?" Asked the boy persistently.

"Ah, it's stung by the bees. Don't worry, it will vanish soon after I daub the propolis," said Yuan Zhou with indifference.

"Oh, I see." When he heard that, the little boy turned around and left quietly. It seemed his mood was likewise affected and he was not as lively as before.

"Let's get the bee pupae out." While looking at the little boy, Yuan Zhou pulled himself together and then turned around, saying to Liuzi.

"Ok, Let me do it." Liuzi offered to undertake this work.

"Then I leave the work to you. Please get all the pupae out of the honeycomb. I don't need them," said Yuan Zhou with a smile.

"Thank you." While receiving the honeycomb, Liuzi said to Yuan Zhou.

"You are welcome." After a nod, Yuan Zhou stood up and prepared to wash up so that he could daub the medicine.

Meanwhile, Liuzi opened the honeycomb carefully. What leaped to the eyes next was a hexagonal honeycomb inside of which some amber honey in both liquid and solid form was scattered along with some beautiful pink crystals as well.

"This honey is quite different from what I have collected before." Looking at the pure and beautiful honey, Liuzi said with puzzlement.

"This is produced by Xiongyi bees." Yuan Zhou told him nothing more but the name.

"So it's the Xiongyi bee. No wonder the stings are so severe," after recognizing it carefully, Liuzi said affirmatively.

"Yeah, it's indeed ferocious." Yuan Zhou pressed the bulges on his body and refrained himself from scratching them.

"So it is. That creature is omnivorous and also eats meat," said Liuzi with some lingering fear.

"It doesn't matter. We don't need to go there again." Yuan Zhou signaled Liuzi to get the pupae out first. Only after that could he cut, boil, purify and then use the propolis.

When Liuzi finished, it was almost the dinner time. As usual, Yuan Zhou headed for Mr. Ma's home while carrying two bowls of Clear Broth Noodle Soup. However, he was straightforwardly sneered at before he had barely entered his home.

"Tsk-tsk. This young man went to collect the honeycomb today, huh?" Appeared on Mr. Ma's face was a manner of contempt when he spoke.

"This is your dinner." Yuan Zhou just neglected his question and set the bowl on the table.

"You aren't really stupid and even know that propolis can cure the bulge." As a matter of fact, there were only a few inconspicuous red points left on Yuan Zhou's face. It was just that Mr. Ma smelled the flavor of the propolis.

"Thank you." With a calm manner, Yuan Zhou thanked him for his compliment. Yes, Yuan Zhou had basically taken such words of Mr. Ma as a compliment.

"Ho Ho. You feed me the noodle soup every day. It seems that you

can only cook that single food." Mr. Ma looked at the Clear Broth Noodle Soup with a manner of contempt. Despite that, he acted quickly and started to eat.

"It's convenient and suitable for you," Yuan Zhou said concisely.

Naturally, Mr. Ma didn't talk to him while eating. Therefore, Yuan Zhou just stayed at the side and began to eat his noodles quietly.

Concentration was a must during the process of savoring delicious food.

Chapter 241: If I say I won't Do It, I Won't Do It

"Will you cook the Wu Chicken Soup today?" asked Yuan Zhou as usual when he cleared the bowls up.

"Nope. I told you that I wouldn't cook it. That's it," Mr. Ma said impatiently.

"I can collect the food ingredients by myself." Having thought for a while, Yuan Zhou added.

"I don't need it. Go away. Are you thinking to trade my imperial court food with merely two bowls of noodle soup? What a ridiculous idea!" Mr. Ma stood up and lost his temper again, which made his Chinese tunic suit wrinkled.

"You have really got a bad temper," said Yuan Zhou suddenly.

"Hey, you fellow dare to criticize me about my temper? Get out of my home. I don't need a kid's impious comment on my temper." Mr. Ma revealed a strong dissatisfaction in his tone. However, the fury of the request at beginning had diminished.

"Well, fine. Good night." Yuan Zhou nodded the head thoughtfully and then stood up and left.

"Little rascal, you indeed have talented culinary skills. So what?"

looking at Yuan Zhou's back, Mr. Ma said discontentedly.

Nevertheless, Yuan Zhou just carried the bowls and returned to the rented house silently.

"Little Yuan, you are back. So did you succeed?" The aged man asked with a smile while standing at the door and smoking his tobacco.

"No. Mr. Ma isn't agreeing at all," said Yuan Zhou straightforwardly.

"I'd say this old guy is so weird. He eats your noodles but doesn't accept your request at the same time. He's just unreasonable and deserves to be neglected." The aged man knocked the tobacco pipe.

"Never mind. The imperial court food might be really difficult to make." Yuan Zhou just smiled and said nothing more.

"I don't think the food that the royal chef can cook is better than your noodles. You just make it way too delicious. I didn't even know such a good taste can be made out of my wheat flour. Little Yuan, apparently you are the master." Looking at the empty bowl in Yuan Zhou's hands, the aged man suddenly recalled the noodles that he had eaten and just felt the dinner had already been digested, making him hungry.

"Thank you for your compliment." Yuan Zhou expressed his gratitude with a smile.

"You are welcome. I'm telling the truth. I wonder when you can cook it for us again," said the aged man unreservedly.

"Before I leave." Yuan Zhou thought for an instant and answered.

"What? Are you leaving?" The aged man said in surprise.

"Yeah. I have stayed here so long and prepare to leave in the next two days." Originally, Yuan Zhou had prepared to stay for 5 days in all. Since it was the third day today, of course he should go.

"Ok. Tell me in advance when you leave," said the aged man earnestly.

"Yeah, I will." Yuan Zhou nodded his head.

"Alright. I am going to sleep. Good night." When the aged man smoked the last of his tobacco, he prepared to go to his room and sleep.

"Wait a moment, please. What are the things on your grandson's face?" Having recalled the little boy's face, Yuan Zhou suddenly asked.

"Do you mean the red spots? Don't worry. They are not infectious." The aged man revealed a faint helpless smile.

"I don't mean that. Is that allergy?" Yuan Zhou asked carefully.

When Yuan Zhou first saw the grandson of the aged man, there were many red spots on the little boy's face. They were more conspicuous at daytime and likewise seemed to be severe now. However, his physical health did not seem bad.

"No. He is born with that. Here in the village, many kids are born with the red spots," the aged man heaved a sigh and said with a muted tone.

"Can those born red spots be cured?" Although they were healthy, it was really unacceptable to see this lovable boy have the red spots on his face.

"We have all tried to get them cured. I took him to the hospital with several other kids who had the same symptoms. The red spots disappeared for some of them when they grew up while remained the same for some other ones. Fortunately, they are all boys." The aged man thought of the face of his grandson and felt a little sad.

Having paused for a little while, the aged man continued to say, "It is said that we villagers have offended too many bees and hence, retribution came."

"No, it's not. They should be able to disappear." Yuan Zhou said affirmatively.

"Sigh. I hope so." While speaking, the aged man went back to his

room.

Standing still there, Yuan Zhou thought for a while and returned to his own room. He then took out a small mirror from his luggage. It was originally for shaving the beard but he now used it to look at his face.

Nevertheless, Yuan Zhou did not have a beard. Otherwise, he would look more like an uncle and conform to the prevalent attractive uncle appearance. Therefore, the purpose of the mirror was needless to say.

The red points on his face had basically vanished, which proved that the function of the propolis were truly effective.

Having considered for quite a while in the mirror, Yuan Zhou went out and bought something. After that, he returned to his room and slept.

"Uncle, I'm sorry. I wasn't polite to you yesterday." In the early morning, the little boy ran into Yuan Zhou's room and apologized.

As the slang said, "Whoever got benefits from others should speak highly of them." Besides, the little boy found Yuan Zhou was very easy to get along with although he had always been with a cold face. However, it was really rude for him to wish that Yuan Zhou would get sick the day before.

"It doesn't matter," said Yuan Zhou naturally. He didn't really

care about that.

"Ah, uncle, your face." After making the apology, the little was stunned when he raised his head.

"What's wrong?" Yuan Zhou didn't know what happened.

"Why are you same with me? You have many red spots on your face." The boy shouted in surprise.

"Red spots?" Yuan Zhou touched out the mirror and checked carefully. As expected, his face was covered with red points, same to the little boy. He appeared fairly terrifying.

"Uncle, how do you feel? Do you feel bad?" The little boy asked nervously.

"Do you feel uncomfortable with your red spots?" asked Yuan Zhou without turning a hair.

"No, I don't. It's just that other people say I'm like a monster." The boy answered with a depressed tone.

"Me, either," Yuan Zhou touched them carefully and then said calmly.

"Why do you have the red spots suddenly? Are the red spots on my face really infectious?" The little boy seemed to think of

something. He stayed further away from Yuan Zhou as if Yuan Zhou wouldn't get infected that way.

"No, it's not. Since the red spots are not itchy nor causing pain, they won't infect others. It's very common. Even the adults would have that," said Yuan Zhou without blinking.

"Really? Isn't it that only we several boys have that?" The little boy said in surprise.

"Of course not. Look, I also have the red points." Yuan Zhou pointed at his own face.

"But uncle, you didn't have them before?" the little boy said anxiously.

"So they will disappear in future. Even if they don't vanish, it does not matter. It's not ugly at all," said Yuan Zhou with a quite earnest manner.

"Is it true? Not like a monster?" The little boy touched his own face hesitantly.

"Certainly not. Perhaps, I'll also have the red spots tomorrow, but they will soon disappear," his grandpa walked to him and said with a smile.

"Grandpa, you will also have that?" Looking at his grandpa's face, the little boy asked with puzzlement.

"Yeah, why not? It's very common, nothing special." The aged man took the little boy's hand and answered earnestly.

"I'm going to have breakfast," said Yuan Zhou behind them.

"I left there some food for you. Thanks." The aged man turned his head with a happy smile on his old face.

He came to the kitchen and found two servings of breakfast there. Presumably, the aged man knew that Yuan Zhou would prepare the breakfast for Mr. Ma and hence cooked another serving especially.

Carrying the breakfast, he swaggered through the streets of the village with the red spots on his face. Nobody really inquired about that. Probably, they all thought it was the result of collecting the honey yesterday.

"Did you cook it?" Mr. Ma only cared about his breakfast, not giving a simple glance at the red spots on Yuan Zhou's face.

"No. My landlord cooked it and I carried it here," said Yuan Zhou earnestly.

"Humph, it's the pig feed again." Mr. Ma answered unreservedly and then reached out his hands into the square plate, preparing to take a big bowl of soup out.

"Mr. Ma, my animal zodiac is Monkey," said Yuan Zhou primly.

"Scram." Mr. Ma, nevertheless, answered with only one word.

What the aged man prepared for Yuan Zhou was a big bowl of soup, two empty bowls and two small plates of pickled dishes.

Following a sound of "Peng", Mr. Ma knocked the big bowl of soup against the square plate carelessly, which made an ear-piercing sound. Apparently, he didn't use much strength.

"How can I eat such hot soup?" Mr. Ma set down the bowl discontentedly and straightforwardly carried the empty bowls out.

"Let me do it." Yuan Zhou reached out to carry the big bowl out and scooped out a small bowl of soup. He tried the temperature and then said, "It's not hot now."

Only after that did he hand the bowl to Mr. Ma.

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Chapter 242: Yuan Zhou's Kindness

"I don't need your fake kindness. This old man can scoop the soup by myself." Mr. Ma didn't accept Yuan Zhou's kindness.

"I know. But your hands can't work normally now, can they?" said Yuan Zhou bluntly.

"Fu*k off," Mr. Ma instantly became expressionless and then he said peacefully. Yuan Zhou's words had touched his sore spot.

"One moment. Let's first finish my breakfast," said Yuan Zhou indifferently. He was now more confident about his previous speculation.

"Are you here to pretend to be pathetic? With the sappanwood on your face?" Mr. Ma appeared to get really angry and hence spoke without thinking.

"No, no. They look nice," Yuan Zhou gulped down a mouthful of soup and said naturally.

"In my opinion, you are just trying to gain sympathy with that trick," Mr. Ma insisted.

"If you insist on that, just think that way." Yuan Zhou didn't retort him and just answered quietly. Meanwhile, he didn't slow down the hand actions and continued to eat the soup in the bowl.

"You want to eat the royal dish? That's impossible." Mr. Ma refused toughly.

"Now that you say I'm trying to gain sympathy, do you agree to cook the Wu Chicken?" asked Yuan Zhou peacefully.

"Ho Ho. I have experienced much of the life. What do you expect to get with the sappanwood?" said Mr. Ma with an ironic smile shown on his face.

"Alright. I have finished my meal. I'm going to send the bowls back after you finish yours. The bowls don't belong to me." Yuan Zhou set down the chopsticks and then pointed at the barely touched soup of the old man.

"Humph." Having grunted, Mr. Ma stopped talking and just ate the soup quietly. Yet, his brows were tightly wrinkled.

Ever then onwards, Mr. Ma spoke no more until Yuan Zhou carried the bowls and walked further away.

"He's so young," looking at the back of Yuan Zhou, Mr. Ma said with a jealous tone.

Walking in the village, Yuan Zhou was nevertheless surrounded by several kids.

"Li Ping, is this the person that is similar to us but comes from outside the village?" Of them, a seemingly fierce boy was asking

the grandson of the aged man.

"Yeah, that's him. Huang Hu, look at the red points on his face," The grandson of the aged man pointed at the red points on Yuan Zhou's face and then said excitedly.

"Humph. But I heard that was because he had just got stung by the bees," said Huang Hu with a manner of scorn.

"Yeah, I also heard of that in the morning from my mum," a little girl chimed in.

"Me, too," said another boy while standing behind Huang Hu. He appeared to be the thinnest boy of them.

"No, you are wrong. The bulges vanished yesterday, but grew out again this morning." Li Ping just couldn't make himself understood when he was worried.

"Then he must have got the red points out of the bees' sting." Huang Hu gave the final conclusion.

"No, it's not. Uncle, you tell them," Li Ping first waved his hand to his friends anxiously and then said excitedly to Yuan Zhou.

Looking at the red spots on the faces of the several boys at different degrees, Yuan Zhou slightly nodded the head and said naturally, "Humm. Yes, I have the same problem."

"How do you know it's the same problem? What if you know your problem is just allergies?" Obviously, Huang Hu was fairly sensible. He straightforwardly questioned Yuan Zhou.

"The main symptoms of the allergies are turning red, aching and itching as well as producing small pimples or red spots. And the major reasons that cause allergies are the natural allergic constitution and the thin layer of the skin. Due to that, some people don't have the resistance to the external stimulus." Yuan Zhou first listed all the allergic reactions without taking a breath and then continued after he looked at the puzzled kids.

"But, I got thick skin and won't be allergic. Most importantly, the red spots on my face neither ache nor itch, which is same as all you little kids," said Yuan Zhou with a determined tone.

"Can I touch them?" Huang Hu considered for a while and then said earnestly.

"Ok, sure." Yuan Zhou crouched carefully while carrying the square plate.

Huang Hu reached out his small palm and touched Yuan Zhou's face lightly. Indeed, he felt the little bulges on Yuan Zhou's face. Only then did he confirm that Yuan Zhou really had the same red points.

"Is he infected by you?" he turned the head to Li Ping and asked him seriously.

"No, no." Li Ping took a step back and hurriedly waved his hand.

"Are you sure?" Huang Hu looked at Li Ping suspiciously. He didn't seem to trust his words.

"Even if I'm infectious, I will surely infect my parents and my grandparents first. How could he be infected before my parents?" said Li Ping with quick wits.

"That indeed makes sense." Finally, Huang Hu was convinced.

"Elder brother, do you think we will get better in the future?" The little girl looked at Yuan Zhou expectantly while opening her eyes wide.

"Of course. Me, too," Yuan Zhou answered seriously.

"Really? Can I also become lovable?" The little girl called Niu Niu raised her head and asked Yuan Zhou. Both her cheeks were covered with the red spots.

"You are quite lovable even now." Yuan Zhou nodded the head earnestly. With the solemn expression on his face, he seemed to be fairly convincing.

"Thank you, elder brother," the little girl said obediently.

"Humm." With a smile revealed on his face, Yuan Zhou nodded the head and then left.

The several kids then passed Yuan Zhou's words to their parents one by one. Looking at the expectant expressions of their kids, even the most desperate parents couldn't bear to say that it wasn't like that and they probably wouldn't get better.

In the afternoon, all members of the family of the aged man daubed red spots on their faces. As for the plant, it was naturally the sappanwood pulp provided by Yuan Zhou.

The small red spots were like little hearts of affection. Initiated by Yuan Zhou and responded by the aged man's family, other villagers whose kids had the same problem all went to Yuan Zhou and asked for the sappanwood pulp. After that, they all started to daub the red points on their faces.

Instantly, the number of adults and kids with red points on their faces increased in Yanfeng Village, which looked quite extraordinary.

Sappanwood was a natural wood dye of superior health and safety. It was usually used to incarnadine the eggs when people celebrated the birth of infants at the first month in some regions of China.

As a result, other kids weren't afraid of those who had red spots on their faces anymore. Of course, they wouldn't become friends immediately. But when they met, they no longer shouted the

words of "monster" to them.

Kids were the purest devil and they never knew how sharp their unintentional utterances were.

When the red spots were no longer a special and independent occurrence but became a normal state, Yuan Zhou achieved his goal of helping those poor kids.

In the evening, in the room that Yuan Zhou had rented.

"Thank you, young man. You have really got a terrific idea," said the aged man while holding the tobacco pipe. With the sappanwood red spots on his face, he appeared to be quite composed.

"You are welcome. The method of using the sappanwood has been given to you," said Yuan Zhou courteously.

"Now that we get this terrific idea, those kids would be happier," while smoking, the aged man said contentedly.

"Yeah." Yuan Zhou nodded his head with a smile.

"It was a pity that I failed in persuading the stubborn old guy to cook the Wu Chicken. I have some golden mushrooms over here for you to take back." The aged man felt a little regretful about Yuan Zhou's wish. He took out a cloth bag which contained some dried golden mushroom from the back.

"Thank you. It doesn't matter." Yuan Zhou received the cloth bag smilingly. About his wish of eating Wu Chicken not being fulfilled, Yuan Zhou nevertheless didn't care much.

After all, Yuan Zhou had basically understood why Mr. Ma no longer cooked.

"Alright. Sorry for bothering you. Do come back again to have fun. I'm leaving." When the aged man saw Yuan Zhou so happy with the golden mushrooms, he also felt satisfied and then he turned around and left.

"Good night." Yuan Zhou nodded his head.

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Chapter 243: Wu Hai's Younger Sister

Early next morning, Yuan Zhou tidied up his luggage and walked out of the door. The doors were then shut with a sound of "Peng". On Yuan Zhou's face, there were still a few red spots.

It was still early and the village was very tranquil when Yuan Zhou got up. Those who got up even earlier had already gone out while those who still stayed in bed were sleeping. Therefore, there was barely anybody showing up in the streets.

Carrying his small backpack on the shoulder, Yuan Zhou took a cloth bag which was filled with the dried golden mushroom and walked toward Mr. Ma house with a lively look.

It was, naturally, for bidding him farewell at this time of day.

Ten minutes later, Yuan Zhou arrived outside Mr. Ma's house.

"Mr. Ma, I'm leaving now. You have to solve breakfast by yourself today." Yuan Zhou took a step forward and said normally, not speaking like he's leaving.

"Get lost quickly. You are talking as if I had nothing to eat without you," Elegantly dressed, Mr. Ma walked out of the door and said rudely.

"Ok. Goodbye," Yuan Zhou just ignored Mr. Ma's scolding and said as though he hadn't heard him.

For the past several days, Yuan Zhou had practiced the skill of listening but paying no attention perfectly.

"Aren't you here for my recipe? It does not matter even if I give it to you," said Mr. Ma suddenly.

"Sorry, but I never have that intention." Yuan Zhou felt a little puzzled. He just wanted to eat the genuine royal dish, but never intended to ask for the recipe of others.

After all, he neither took Mr. Ma as his teacher nor did he have anything to do with the old man who spoke so offensively.

"A chef without any pursuit doesn't deserve the title of chef," Mr. Ma said ironically.

"I don't think I need to tell you about my pursuit," answered Yuan Zhou with a courteous tone, yet with a hint of sharpness. No one could keep calm when he was bluntly sneered at his dreams.

"Do you think I care about your thing? Take it and leave me alone. I don't want to say anything to you anymore." Mr. Ma took a look at Yuan Zhou and brought out a yellow notebook from his pocket before throwing it to him.

"Pa", Yuan Zhou reached out his hands and received the notebook subconsciously.

"What's this?" Yuan Zhou didn't open it and check by himself, but asked directly.

"Get out of my home." However, Mr. Ma didn't explain anything to him. Instead, he sudden lost his temper and straightforwardly drove Yuan Zhou out.

"Thank you." On the second thought, Yuan Zhou understood. Having thanked the old man with a frown, he left.

"Dong Dong Dong", Yuan Zhou walked further. His steps on the gravel road emitted a sound of "Zhi Zhi".

Mr. Ma sat in the chair expressionlessly with his mood unknown to others. In a little while, however, he turned around and went back to his room. After a sound of "Peng", the door was then shut strongly.

As for Yuan Zhou, he was hurrying on with his journey. The notebook given by Mr. Ma was directly placed in his small bag by Yuan Zhou. He wasn't in a rush to read it, even if Yuan Zhou had figured out it was the cooking method for the royal dish Wu Chicken and possibly some extra experiences.

It could only be regarded as a windfall that Yuan Zhou hadn't originally expected that.

While Yuan Zhou was hurrying back to his restaurant to prepare to do business tomorrow, Wu Hai encountered a crisis.

"Peng, Dong", from Wu Hai's art studio came various noises.

"Hey, Wu Lin, that's enough. I will not go back." Seated on the sofa, Wu Hai helplessly watched his sister breaking things that he treasured.

"Ho Ho. If you still don't follow me going back today, I promise I will tear you into pieces. If you don't believe, you can wait and see," said Wu Hai's younger sister while showing her great might.

With neat short hair and eyebrows of fortitude, Wu Lin nevertheless had a unisex charming appearance. She was wearing a red-grid short sleeve shirt and short jeans, which revealed her slender and compact thighs. While speaking, she smashed a plaster model of Wu Hai mercilessly.

"Huh, really? You going to give it a try?" With his usual distinctive fashion of wearing short pants, a vest and slippers, Wu Hai said rascally while stroking his mustache.

"You'd better think it over. When have you ever seen me not keep my promise?" Standing in front of Wu Hai, Wu Lin looked at Wu Hai from top to bottom, which gave an extreme sense of pressure.

"You are my younger sister. Why don't you have any femininity?" Wu Hai looked at Wu Lin for quite a while and then withered.

"Yeah. I don't have any femininity. You are right." Wu Lin smiled suddenly and revealed an expression combining 30% attraction and 70% tenderness on her face, which made her appear prettier. It was as attractive as the smile of a queen.

On the contrary, her actions were nevertheless quite ferocious. Wu Lin directly lifted Wu Hai up and made an arm throw. Consequently, Wu Hai lay on the ground after a sound of "Peng".

With his hands still on the mustache, Wu Hai became a little dazed. Suddenly, he spat out several words, "I'll have to go to the art show. What if I get injured?"

"Don't worry. I promise that you won't get injured. I have a good control over my strength." Wu Lin wrenched his white and slender fingers, revealing the smooth muscles on her arms.

"I severely wonder if you were mistakenly recognized and brought into our home by accident when you were born," Wu Hai directly lay down on the ground and said hopelessly.

"Now you choose. You stand up and go with me or I tear you into pieces and stuff you into the plane, then we go to the art show." Wu Lin just neglected her elder brother Wu Hai's depression and brought out her requirements lightly.

"I haven't eaten the delicious dishes yet. Please, let me stay for the last day. Tomorrow, I will go with you," Wu Hai got seated on the ground and said earnestly.

"Do you think I will believe you? How many times have you said the same to Jiawei?" Wu Lin didn't believe in her elder brother Wu Hai's words, not a single word.

"But it's the first time I told that to you," said Wu Hai earnestly.

"You know I don't have much patience ever since I was little." Looking at her elder brother who was similar to a rascal, Wu Lin gave him an ultimatum.

"For god's sake, you are my own sister. Yet, you begin to help others even before you get married." Wu Hai really wanted to say that he would never go to the art show. But considering the neat arm throw of his younger sister, Wu Hai decided to take flanking tactics.

"Do you still have the nerve to talk about Jiawei. He didn't tell me about that until he couldn't manage it himself at the art show. Otherwise, how could you have so many days enjoying the life?" Once she recalled her boyfriend who fully busied himself at the art show, Wu Lin felt her heart ache. As for this unreliable elder brother, she might as well beat him to death.

With Wu Lin's murderous look getting more severe, Wu Hai instantly got up nimbly and answered, "Good. I agree with you on the first solution."

Not saying yes or no, Wu Lin just looked at Wu Hai. Thinking of his boyfriend Zheng Jiawei, she managed to refrain herself from

beating this useless elder brother and said coldly, "Then let's set out now."

"Alright." Wu Hai stroked his mustache with one hand and put the other in the pocket. With a fortunate expression on his face, Wu Hai followed Wu Lin walking out the door.

On the other side, Yuan Zhou opened the notebook on the train. After he opened it, there was nothing else except the cooking method of Wu Chicken. Besides, the cooking method was written quite simply with only the third point emphasized. It was obviously not a notebook of Mr. Ma. God knows where he bought the notebook and then copied it.

A pheasant was required. Take out the internal organs and bones and ensure the remaining part is intact. The skin can't be broken and no bones are allowed to be left inside. Stuff the golden mushroom into the flesh and simmer them together until they are cooked.

"Culinary skills of the royal court are characterized by surrounding, blending, inserting and pulping, etc. Leaving no bones in the flesh and no fish bones in the fish were merely the basic standard requirement of royal dishes." Yuan Zhou looked at the content of the new notebook. Only then did he genuinely understand the reason why Mr. Ma didn't cook that dish.

He was old and weak and probably was unable to reach the requirement of taking all bones out while keeping the skin unbroken.

Time is truly the most impartial thing. It could enable people to learn a supreme craftsmanship. However, time is also the most ruthless thing. It could make people unable to perform the supreme craftsmanship they obtained as the time goes by.

Chapter 244: Newly Developed Silk Twined Rabbit

Yuan Zhou heaved a sigh.

Then, he put down the notebook and considered quietly for a while, maintaining the serious manner along the way until he got off.

While Yuan Zhou was taking a cab unhurriedly and preparing to go back to his restaurant, Wu Hai was likewise preparing to go out. However, he still wanted to try one last time.

"Wu Lin, you watch out. Zheng Jiawei won't marry you if you continue behaving like that." While he was packing up his luggage, he began to express his grievances.

"That won't happen. No matter how bad-tempered I am, I can't compete with you." Wu Lin crossed his arms over her chest. The lines of her slender and vigorous thighs were beautiful, but nevertheless quite frightening in front of Wu Hai.

"Actually, I don't have much work to do at the art show. Even if we go tomorrow, we have a lot time." Wu Hai didn't slow down his pace of packing, but he hadn't given up the thought of staying for another day.

"Brother, you know I only have one thing in common with you, that is, I don't have a good patience." Wu Lin reached out her

hands and stroked her hair with a smile on her face.

"I'll finish right away." Knowing the consequences of annoying his mighty sister, Wu Hai fell silent.

One hour passed while Wu Hai packed his luggage slowly. Then Wu Lin walked after her brother as if she were escorting a criminal. They then advanced toward the car that was parked at the crossing.

Over there a flashy car was parked. With a pure black appearance and seemingly handsome edges as well as oversize wheels, it was, surprisingly, a Humvee.

Women driving Humvees had a certain charm. However, Wu Hai was extremely speechless. After all, driving a Humvee downtown wasn't really comfortable.

"Why are you driving this instead of a sports car?" Wu Hai got into the Humvee while murmuring.

"We don't have much time to catch the plane. If we are late, I can only hang you at the rear of the plane," Wu Lin glanced at Wu Hai and said unreservedly.

"Ok, you are the boss. There are still two hours left before boarding time. We can definitely arrive in time," Wu Hai stroked his mustache and said calmly.

"Humm. Remember to show your face when we get there." Wu Lin did not trust this unreliable brother at all, hence instructed him carefully.

"Let's hurry up. Didn't you say we are going to be late?" Wu Hai disliked others nagging him.

As expected, Wu Lin stopped talking immediately. She started the Humvee with a loud sound of "Wu Wu" and turned the car fast.

At that time, the cab that took by Yuan Zhou had barely arrived there.

"Ouch. That is a Humvee. So cool," having parked the car, the cab driver looked at the Humvee ahead of him and said in admiration.

"Yes, indeed. Here is the fare." Yuan Zhou echoed and then handed the fare to him.

"It's exactly the right amount." The cab driver checked the notes and then drove away.

Yuan Zhou then began to head for his own restaurant along the street. He carried the backpack and walked forward in silence.

He didn't like looking around while walking. Even if a familiar person passed by him sometimes, he was unaware of that. Therefore, Yuan Zhou didn't turn his head and look at the Humvee when it made the turn.

Seated in the car, however, Wu Hai happened to see Yuan Zhou while looking around. He caught sight of Yuan Zhou's side.

"Wait a moment. Stop," Wu Hai shouted anxiously.

However, Wu Lin didn't follow his instructions this time. She straightforwardly drove forward, not even answering his brother at all.

"Drive back." Wu Hai craned his neck and looked behind. But the speed of Humvee was really fast even if it was on the city streets. Therefore, Wu Hai couldn't see it clearly more.

"What do you want?" Finally, Wu Lin turned her head and took a look at Wu Hai.

"I just saw Boss Yuan. I want to go back for a meal. And we can go after that," Wu Hai no longer stroked his mustache and straightforwardly said that.

"Don't cheat me with that ridiculous excuse. You recognize everyone you meet as that Boss Yuan now," said Wu Lin with an uncourteous tone. She didn't believe her brother's words at all now.

"Impossible. I feel it's exactly him." Wu Hai didn't actually recognize Yuan Zhou well with only a side view. But he won't admit that in front of his sister.

"Are you sure?" Wu Lin knew his brother very well. When she realized her brother wasn't as determined as before, she knew that he wasn't really sure.

"Whatever happens, I want to go back to confirm it." Wu Hai proposed persistently.

"It seems that you prefer to be dismantled into several pieces and sent there by courier," said Wu Lin peacefully.

With her prowess, it was as easy as blowing off the dust to dismantle Wu Hai, of which he was quite aware.

"I want to drink water." Suddenly, Wu Hai said.

"Huh. Take it by yourself." Wu Lin didn't expose his intention and directly answered.

Soon, they arrived at the airport. But Wu Hai refused to go check-in personally with the explanation that he was still a painter and wouldn't rush to work of his own accord.

Therefore, Wu Hai just sat in the lounge with his mind at ease and waited for Wu Lin to do the check-in. As for Wu Lin, she had only one purpose, to get her brother to the art show smoothly.

At his leisure, Wu Hai thought for a while and still didn't want to

accept the situation. He then logged in to the Cuisine Backup Group and prepared to see if anybody knew where Yuan Zhou was at present.

[May I ask a question? Did Boss Yuan come back?] from Brother Hai that Hasn't Eaten.

[I don't think so. Didn't the notice say the restaurant would be open for business tomorrow? It's only at noon today.] from Wu Zhou Eating Egg Fried Rice in Other Restaurants.

[Latest news! Boss Yuan just passed by my bakery store.] from Man Man Expecting to Eat Prawns.

[Well, Boss Yuan is so dutiful. Is the restaurant open for business this evening?] from Wu Zhou Eating Egg Fried Rice in Other Restaurants.

"I have felt endless evil intentions from the universe...] from Brother Hai that Hasn't Eaten.

Wu Hai stared at his phone as if it were the fried rice or other things that could be eaten.

"Let's board the plane now," Wu Lin happened to come back at that moment and then said indifferently.

"I'm going back," said Wu Hai with a determined attitude.

"You seem to be unwilling to give up," said Wu Lin peacefully.

This time, she didn't give Wu Hai any opportunity to find excuses and immediately clutched Wu Hai's shoulder tightly. Instantly, Wu Hai felt limp and numb all over his body and was directly dragged away by Wu Lin. Having been suppressed by force neatly, Wu Hai couldn't even talk due to the huge pain.

For Wu Hai, it was more than a perfect miss, but was like a forever farewell, like the flowers and leaves of manjusaka. It was simply one hell of a coincidence.

After greeting Man Man, Yuan Zhou went directly back to the restaurant and cooked a bowl of Clear Broth Noodle Soup for himself immediately, as well as an extra serving of Egg Fried Rice.

After a sound of "Pi Li Pa La", Yuan Zhou got seated in the chair that he had left vacant for days and started to eat.

After a whirlwind of gulping, Yuan Zhou sighed contentedly, "Only the food materials provided by the system are most delicious and most nutritious."

The originally exhausted Yuan Zhou now felt the strength return.

After that, he began to prepare the newly developed Silk Twined Rabbits.

"System, I have separated the honey completely, but the royal jelly was sour and spicy and hence probably not a good reward." Yuan Zhou took out the packaged honey that was arranged into sorts and negotiated with the system.

The system displayed, "Host can develop a new dish on your own, of which I will provide other food materials."

"It's really a generous suggestion, but I like it very much." The reason why Yuan Zhou mentioned that was just for more rewards.

What the system provided was definitely of supreme grade.

As for the remaining honey, Yuan Zhou put on his face mask and began to cook a newly improved Silk Twined Rabbits for a trial run.

"This time, the taste is supposed to have a new breakthrough," Yuan Zhou sighed with emotion and said that while looking at the rabbit meat that had been twined and pickled.

With the supreme-grade honey and rabbit meat as well as Yuan Zhou's god-tier craftsmanship, achieving a breakthrough in taste was definitely not a problem.

Chapter 245: Celestial Vinegar

Yuan Zhou knew the rabbit meat had a texture of acidity like that of the roe deer. Besides, if the eyes of the rabbit were closed after it died, it cannot be eaten. This had been recorded in ancient books.

The rabbit meat cooked by Yuan Zhou was naturally free from all these concerns. Originally, Yuan Zhou replaced the white sugar with honey because the sweetness of the honey would linger although it wasn't really strong. Apart from that, the honey itself contained a slightly oily feeling and hence would become shinier and smoother as well as brighter in color after being fumigated.

Only after he had finished all the work in the restaurant did Yuan Zhou have time to go upstairs to sleep soundly until the next morning. Thinking of the soup dumplings that hadn't been cooked for a long time, Yuan Zhou rolled over to get up.

Having washed up, Yuan Zhou went out for jogging. The long journey for the past few days had shown the benefits of exercising, therefore he paid more attention to that.

After taking a rest for a few days, Yuan Zhou opened the restaurant for business again. Although his usual expression still remained, his state of mind changed a little. The shadow of the old royal chef was still lingering in his sight.

"Hu.... I had better do my things first and then consider others." Yuan Zhou settled down to his work and began to knead the dough earnestly.

"Jia Jia, do you think our boss has opened the restaurant?" asked Shen Min uneasily.

"Of course. Our boss has always been punctual." Zhou Jia answered affirmatively. She didn't have much anxiety, in other words, she took things in easily.

Shen Min, however, was a different person. Due to her character, she had always been worried that Yuan Zhou would quit the business. Like the person of ancient Qi kingdom who worried the sky would fall, she was always anxious.

It also might be because she had already studied quite hard, but her accomplishments were always not very good. Even for the entrance to the college, she gave all her effort. Zhou Jia was different from her. Despite her poor family conditions, she always came first in examinations even if she was just studying courses for adults.

"Min Min, you really don't need to go to class today?" Zhou Jia looked at Shen Min and asked her with care.

"No problem. The first two lessons are self-study classes. So don't worry," Shen Min thought for a while and said affirmatively.

"Then you can go back after we check the restaurant," Zhou Jia said to her earnestly.

"Humm." Shen Min nodded the head, not giving any positive or negative answer.

In a while, the two of them arrived at Yuan Zhou's restaurant, where there were many acquaintances waiting in line outside the restaurant.

"This Boss Yuan is damn hateful. As soon as he comes back, he cooks delicious dishes." The first person was Wu Zhou. He said unreservedly while smelling the fragrance of the soup dumplings.

"If you don't want to eat, you can leave," Ling Hong looked discontentedly at Wu Zhou who was ahead of him and said discourteously.

"I don't mean that. It's just that my wallet is going to bleed again and I don't know how to explain to my girlfriend." Wu Zhou revealed a miserable look of "You single people know nothing."

"What do you think if we throw you out of the line?" Octopus stretched out his head and asked Wu Zhou while looking at him seriously.

"No violence is allowed over here at Boss Yuan's restaurant." Wu Zhou revealed a solemn look. Apparently, he was imitating Yuan Zhou's usual expression.

"Ho Ho. No one would say no if I throw you out," said Octopus indifferently.

"Then I can move forward to take your position," Ling Hong said arrogantly.

"We might as well discuss what dishes Boss Yuan will cook for breakfast." Wu Zhou changed the subject stiffly. However, the subject did work well.

The crowd started to guess the breakfast dishes one after another. As the regular customers, these several people were more certain about the specific dishes. After all, they ate here many times and were quite familiar with that.

When Shen Min and Zhou Jia arrived, they saw the bustling scene and instantly became relieved.

"So there's no problem now. Min Min, you hurry back to attend your classes." Zhou Jia said with a smile.

"Yes, I will come by in the evening." Instead of waiting for Yuan Zhou to open the door, Shen Min directly headed back to her college.

Just in a little while, Yuan Zhou's restaurant was opened punctually at the agreed time. And although the customers were unable to wait longer, they didn't forget Yuan Zhou's rules and all waited patiently in the line for seats.

"Boss Yuan, what did you do when you were away?" having the

least scruples, Wu Zhou directly asked.

"Collect honey." Answered Yuan Zhou with an indifferent manner.

"You went to collect the honey by yourself? Boss Yuan, did you get stung?" Wu Zhou looked at Yuan Zhou up and down.

Wu Zhou once had the experience of touching a bee when he had seen one fall on the ground during his childhood and then getting stung on his thumb. Ever since then, he hated bees very much. The source of the hatred was, of course, the fear, which was the reason he asked.

"Of course not," Yuan Zhou answered him with quite a firm tone.

"He might have recovered after being stung," Ling Hong revealed an evil smile and then said suddenly.

"No, that's impossible. I remember it takes at least one week for the bulge to vanish after bee's sting." Wu Zhou seemed to have a lot of experience.

"The propolis is said to have the function of hastening healing." Octopus also showed up and participated in the heated talk.

"As a chef, collecting food materials is an indispensable capability. We chefs have nothing to fear," said Yuan Zhou shamelessly.

He had totally forgotten how he followed Liu Zi and asked him humbly all the way and how cautious he was while going down the cliff.

"Hey, you guys. Are you eating or not? This old man is going to starve. Why do you all still chirp endlessly?" Lee Yanyi really couldn't bear that and thus complained with a blaming tone.

"Hi. May I ask what you like to order?" Zhou Jia went up and asked him hurriedly.

"Humph. You guys are all as dense as a tree trunk and, moreover, have so many rules." Seeing the girl come to greet him, he contrarily wasn't worried anymore. He first complained for a while and then started to order his dishes.

"A serving of Soup Dumplings and a small plate of Celestial Vinegar." Every time Lee Yanyi ordered the dishes, he brought out the name of the vinegar.

"One moment, please," Zhou Jia answered neatly.

Yuan Zhou straightforwardly placed the two dishes on the tray and gave it to Zhou Jia to pass to the customer.

"Sir, how do you know it's Celestial Vinegar?" Ling Hong was to some extent an experienced foodie and loved the soup dumplings most. However, he had never known much about the vinegar. It

was also the first time that he had met with Lee Yanyi.

Certainly, he knew Lee Yanyi, but nevertheless didn't uncover that he was a food critic.

"Huh, a lad naturally can't recognize it just by eating." Lee Yanyi had always talked with Yuan Zhou like that. He never knew what was called courtesy.

"It's indeed Celestial Vinegar," Yuan Zhou suddenly uttered and confirmed that.

"Of course, this old man won't make that mistake." Hearing that, Lee Yanyi appeared to be more complacent.

"Here are your dishes." At that time, Zhou Jia carried the soup dumplings and the vinegar to him.

"The vinegar is red in color and acidic in the taste. It wasn't astringent at all and moreover was fresh and delicate. It's supposed to be the first yield of the newly made vinegar. Otherwise, there wouldn't be such a taste," Lee Yanyi said in detail while pointing at the vinegar in the small plate.

"But Boss Yuan, which method did you use to make the celestial vinegar? It surprisingly has no dregs and extra odor. Besides, even the color is so transparent." Lee Yanyi had long been expecting to ask him about that and only got the chance this time.

"Take the rice cooked on the lunar month May 1st and shape it into rice balls. Store one every day until noon of the next May 1st. Crumble them and then wash the rice clean. Next, put all of them in a jar along with the water used for steaming the rice. Use the willow branch to stir for the first seven days. And one month later, the vinegar is produced naturally." Yuan Zhou brought out the preparation method as concisely as possible.

Since Yuan Zhou had personally experienced the whole process before, he explained carefully in detail.

"It's truly complex." Lee Yanyi looked at Yuan Zhou with a complex gaze.

Preparing this thing required much patience. He needed to make it at a fixed time every day. Even an auxiliary material was so complex, let alone the main ingredients. That was why Yuan Zhou's dishes were so expensive.

Although some people would complain about the price, most of them were convinced of Yuan Zhou's craftsmanship.

Speaking of the celestial vinegar, could anyone find another store that sold the same one in Chengdu City?

"Master Yuan, your craftsmanship is truly supreme," Lee Yanyi heaved a sigh and then said earnestly.

"Thank you." Yuan Zhou expressed his gratitude calmly.

But in his heart, he was naturally very happy. Yuan Zhou had already known that this person was a food critic. Although he came for meals frequently, he never wrote any comments for his restaurant. For the overdue compliment now, Yuan Zhou, of course, wouldn't feel embarrassed.

Chapter 246: Yuan Zhou's Little Hobby (Third)

"Boss Yuan, is the vinegar for sale?" Hit by an inspiration, Wu Zhou suddenly asked.

"No." Yuan Zhou answered subconsciously.

"Boss Yuan, I have a reason to ask that. Trust me," Wu Zhou emphasized.

"So what's the reason?" The one who asked that was, of course, not Yuan Zhou. The little amount of curiosity he had had all been contributed to culinary skills. Therefore, it was Ling Hong at the side who asked.

"Let me tell you, Boss Yuan. My girlfriend enjoys eating boiled prawns very much, but she prefers eating it with vinegar. What's more, she doesn't like the vinegar bought outside, except the one served here," said Wu Zhou with a look of sweetness.

"Sorry. My dishes can't be taken out," said Yuan Zhou primly, not caring about Wu Zhou's business even if he was a little annoyed by Wu Zhou's showing off his love.

"Vinegar is not a dish. It's only a flavoring." Wu Zhou tried his best to get his request to be accepted for the sake of his girlfriend.

"The rules are all on the wall." Yuan Zhou was too lazy to explain anymore. He just pointed at the wall and said that.

"Then I will buy and take some prawns here to eat." Having recalled the distinct way he ate the Egg Fried Rice that was bought outside here last time, Wu Zhou suddenly became enlightened and then said that.

"A separate serving of vinegar costs 66 RMB per plate," Yuan Zhou said lightly.

"Eh..." Wu Zhou choked right away.

"A man cannot admit defeat. Just buy one." Ling Hong spoke nonsense with a prim look.

"Exactly. A man can't say he is incapable," Octopus held back his laughter and said.

They all knew about Yuan Zhou's rules. With the price of 66 RMB, he could only buy a plate of vinegar. Even if they didn't lack money, they still felt heartache.

"Let me first consult my wife when I go home." Ever since Zhuang Xinmu agreed to Wu Zhou's plan to buy an apartment, he addressed his girlfriend as his wife.

As the result, the several people who teased him were again attacked by the flaunting of his sweet love.

"I feel that having meals is more important," Octopus said quietly.

Then they began to order their dishes and neglected Wu Zhou at the side on the nod.

The one-hour breakfast time soon passed. However, the customers didn't leave immediately. They hadn't seen each other for long and those who were free basically stayed to make small talk for a while.

Nevertheless, the most important thing was, of course, to inquire about Yuan Zhou's next itinerary and if he planned to go out again.

After applying various speaking techniques of beating about the bush, Wu Zhou made the final conclusion in the end.

"Boss Yuan, are you prepared to rest again these few days?" Wu Zhou said straightforwardly.

Once the words were uttered, those who still stayed in the restaurant all listened carefully to Yuan Zhou's answer. Zhou Jia also listened earnestly. After all, she had been paid all along but didn't do much work, hence felt a little perturbed.

"Temporarily, no," Yuan Zhou said indifferently.

"Hu..... Bye, Boss Yuan. I'm going to work." Wu Anlu let out a sigh of relief and then directly said goodbye.

Having got their satisfactory answer, other customers also left one after another. Even the hawkers that publicly listened in on their conversation likewise left contentedly.

What a joke. After Yuan Zhou's restaurant was closed, the customers were directly reduced by 2/3. And the remaining 1/3 merely came here to inquire about when Yuan Zhou would open the restaurant and hence wasn't in the mood for buying their food. Therefore, their business had been severely affected for the past five days.

They eagerly expected that Yuan Zhou could open the restaurant and do business without any rest like them. That way, they could also make a lot of money.

"Boss, I'm leaving, too." Zhou Jia prepared to leave in silence.

"Wait a moment. Your weekly salary." Yuan Zhou took out the brand-new 100 RMB notes and handed them to her.

"Thank you, boss. But we didn't work this week and it's inappropriate to receive the money." Zhou Jia first thanked him, but didn't reach her hands to get the money.

"Did you come here everyday?" asked Yuan Zhou suddenly.

"Yes, I did. I came every morning at 8:00 with Shen Min." Zhou Jia didn't know Yuan Zhou's style well and hence answered honestly.

"Did you do the cleaning?" Yuan Zhou continued to ask.

"Yes. The area at the front door has been very clean and we only cleaned the backdoor area." Zhou Jia thought Yuan Zhou was checking their previous work, so she answered very carefully.

"Since you have finished the work I demanded, then you deserve the payment." while Yuan Zhou was handing the money to Zhou Jia, he said primly.

"Humm." Zhou Jia vaguely felt Boss Yuan's words did make sense. Then she received the money in a daze and then left.

After all customers were gone, Yuan Zhou couldn't wait to take his pulling cart and walk out of the restaurant.

"Boss, 5 kgs of radishes. Please make it a round number," Yuan Zhou headed straight for the stall that he had often visited to buy vegetables and directly said when he arrived.

"No problem. I have kept a lot of curiously shaped radishes for you." The boss was still the grandma. As soon she saw Yuan Zhou, she said smilingly.

"Thank you." Seeing the boss take out many curiously shaped

radishes as said and packed them in his bag, Yuan Zhou expressed his gratitude with a nod.

After that, Yuan Zhou carefully pulled his small cart with a sound of "Zhi Ya, Zhi Ya" and returned to his restaurant.

The first thing he did after arriving at the restaurant was to move a chair from upstairs. Then he began to sit by the door and sculpt the radish. Of course, the flower shelf was also moved outside.

While taking a radish with a big belly in his hands, Yuan Zhou first observed its shape carefully and made a composition in his mind according to the methods taught by Wu Hai. Then, he began to cut away the skin and prepared to sculpt the flowers.

After the skin was cut away, the round radish appeared bigger and more lovable.

Following a sound of "Shua Shua", he waved the miracle kitchen knife around the radish quickly and concisely. Then, the skin of the radish fell in the trash bin at his feet by pieces gradually.

Theoretically, it would be pleasant and enjoyable to watch Yuan Zhou sculpt. Nevertheless, Man Man who just arrived didn't have the mood. Naturally, she was slightly stunned while watching but once she thought of her matter, she couldn't continue to watch.

"Boss Yuan, please do me a favor," said Man Man anxiously.

However, Yuan Zhou's reaction was still No Reaction.

"Boss Yuan, Boss Yuan, I really need your help. Please." Man Man said persistently.

"Wait a moment." Yuan Zhou eventually responded this time, yet not turning his head to her at all.

"God. Can you just sculpt it after a while? I really have something urgent to ask for your help." Man Man remained anxious.

However, Yuan Zhou still didn't stop the work and just continued to sculpt the radish carefully. Nor did the speed of his action become slow.

Man Man knew that Yuan Zhou was very easy to get along with. Besides, they knew each other and were considered to be friends. Basically, when she needed his help, he had never refused her. It was nevertheless the first time that Yuan Zhou didn't even listen to her.

"This is the Jinyaolou Peony, isn't it? It has 880 petals. It definitely needs much longer time. Please, couldn't you help me first?" Man Man lowered her head and looked at Yuan Zhou's hands before she said that.

"Quiet, please." Having raised his head and taken a look at Man Man's face, Yuan Zhou lowered the head and continued with his sculpting.

"Hey..." Man Man shouted again persistently.

The person who answered her every time she called him nevertheless continued his work as if he had heard nothing, no matter how hard Man Man talked to him.

Not until five minutes later did Yuan Zhou take a deep breath and set down the radish, saying, "What's up?"

"Finally. Dear Boss Yuan, I need to accept delivery of materials and hence need your help to check the quality. Never did I expect you not to answer me for so long." Man Man was a little angry. The person who quickly answered her during normal times nevertheless didn't respond to her at the crucial moment.

"Don't disturb me when I sculpt," said Yuan Zhou seriously.

"You don't allow disturbance while cooking before and now while sculpting. In my opinion, you don't have your own spare time at all." Man Man said in a tough tone.

"No, for neither occasions." Yuan Zhou nodded the head solemnly.

It wasn't unreasonable for him to be single until now...

"Ok, got it. Then can you help me now?" After a sigh, Man Man

agreed. Only then did Yuan Zhou stand up.

People who got up on the wrong side of the bed were dreadful while Yuan Zhou, when his hobby was disturbed, was equally dreadful too.

Chapter 247: Prawns Eaten with Vinegar

On the way, Yuan Zhou and Man Man walked side by side.

"What are the materials this time?" Yuan Zhou asked concisely.

"Still the flour and white sugar. Sorry to bother you, Compass." Man Man was an adorable girl. With a smile, she appeared more lovable.

"Have you changed your supplier?" Yuan Zhou frowned and asked.

"Yeah. Last time you said there were some problems with the flour, which surprisingly turned out to be moldy and bleached. Of course, I wouldn't dare to use it anymore." Man Man stuck out her tongue, still having a lingering fear.

Last time, before Yuan Zhou went out for the honey, Man Man specially sent a new product, the cocktail cake, to him based on their good relationships. When Yuan Zhou just opened the bag and gave a sniff, however, he told her directly, "Why did you send me a cake made from moldy flour?"

In the end, Man Man explained for half an hour before she let Yuan Zhou understand it was the problem of the ingredients. Of course, Man Man returned the goods back to the supplier with her experienced business skills. She came to find Yuan Zhou this time also because his five senses were extraordinary.

Yuan Zhou, of course, agreed. Such a trifle was nevertheless acceptable to him with the precondition that he wasn't bothered while busy.

Nevertheless, the current flour supplier wasn't honest, either. As soon as Yuan Zhou smelled the flour carefully and twisted it with his fingers when he approached it, he knew it was mixed with the flour that had been kept for years. If it were from the crops of last year, Yuan Zhou wouldn't really care. But obviously, it had been kept for years.

"It's mixed with inferior flour. You have to handle it by yourself," Yuan Zhou walked back to Man Man and said calmly.

"Sh*t, these traffickers. Again, they lie to me that the flour is from newly harvested wheat." Man Man rolled up her sleeves and prepared to pick a fight.

"Calm down." Yuan Zhou took hold of her collar and tried to stop her.

"You'd better let go of me. Otherwise, I will reveal your secret." Man Man wasn't grateful. Instead, she even threatened Yuan Zhou.

"Ok. Whatever you want." Yuan Zhou let go of her and made a gesture of "As you please."

After that, he really neglected her and then he turned around and left conveniently.

It was no more than a matter of return and exchange of the flour, in which Yuan Zhou found it inappropriate for him to participate.

"It's 10:10. A good time to visit Broth." Yuan Zhou checked the time and headed for Broth's home.

Broth had always been living beside the scrap heap. There was a used basket and a few used clothes. The home looked pretty good.

Furthermore, the dog made itself very clean and thus had won great favors from young girls, who would surely feed it when they were happy. Therefore, the dog didn't have to worry about the food and clothing.

However, it was slightly different this time. When Yuan Zhou got there, Broth was lying at a place far from the scrap heap and close to the cross road.

"Wow, why are you here?" Yuan Zhou went up and greeted it.

As usual, Broth just turn a blind eye to him, totally different from its adorable manner in front of cute girls.

Yuan Zhou went closer to its kennel and found there was another trash bin blocking Broth's home.

"Miserable little thing, even your home is forcibly occupied," looking at the dog Broth, Yuan Zhou said with a tone of disdain

This time, unexpectedly, Broth responded to him with a sound of "Wu Wu". However, Yuan Zhou didn't understand dog's language and hence didn't know what it was whining about.

"Forget it. You can live at the back door from now on." The back door of the neighboring pub was always closed and the porch was very large, therefore there should be no problem to accommodate the dog.

Having thought for a while, Yuan Zhou went up to take Broth's kennel and then walked to his back door. The dog Broth likewise followed him leisurely as if it were an imperial envoy on an inspection tour with a manner of swagger.

In a little while, they arrived at the back door of the pub. When the former tea house was decorated, it was designed with the style of ancient eaves, thus set aside a lot of space. Since Broth was merely a small dog, the space was sufficient for it.

"Hiss", when Yuan Zhou set down the kennel, he suddenly let out a light hiss. Then he raised and checked his hand, finding that a small piece of flesh was torn off from above the fingernail on the little finger. The wound was bleeding severely.

"I see red on the first day of coming back. It seems to be a good omen." Looking at the wound, Yuan Zhou suddenly recalled what

his mother had spoken and then muttered to himself.

"You adapt yourself to the new surroundings on your own. I need to go back," Yuan Zhou pinched his little finger that was constantly bleeding and said to Broth.

However, Broth just lay prone on the ground indifferently and went to sleep...

Only after Yuan Zhou scattered some anastaltic medicine on the wound did the bleeding stop gradually. Then he found out that it was a piece of flesh that had fallen.

"I have always been good while playing with the knife to cut vegetables, but now, surprisingly, I got injured while moving the kennel." Looking at the wound on his hand, Yuan Zhou was a little speechless.

"System, is there any method to make my hand not bleed in water?" Thinking of the business hours that day and looking at the slightly bleeding wound covered with white medicine, Yuan Zhou consulted the system with a helpless manner.

The system displayed nothing.

"In order to better become a Master Chef, the dishes cannot be contaminated," said Yuan Zhou primly.

However, the system refused to accept Yuan Zhou's explanation

and had absolutely no reaction.

Only then did Yuan Zhou give up. After that, he first soaked his hands in saline water to stop bleeding and for disinfection. Naturally, the salt used in the saline water was the well salt provided by the system. A little while later, he began to use the tea bags that had already been soaked and cooled down for external application.

Anyhow, he had worked in the kitchen for several years and hence knew some effective methods to stop bleeding quickly. As for the request, he naturally wanted to get some more advanced technologies."

When the bleeding stopped, Yuan Zhou tried to make dishes. However, some dishes couldn't be made anymore and he could only cook fried rice and stir-fry dishes. Therefore, Yuan Zhou took out some paper, cut them into long strips and covered them on some dishes, indicating they were unavailable.

Only after that did Yuan Zhou settle down from being wounded. He directly went upstairs to wash up and then intended to make preparations for the opening hours at noon.

"A leaky roof is attacked by incessant rain while a late-arriving ship encounters the head wind." It couldn't be better to use this slang on Yuan Zhou.

In Stephen Chow's movie Kung Fu, there was an episode, where the water suddenly stopped while a person was washing his head

halfway, so he shouted to a skilled fighter, the landlady. When Yuan Zhou bathed halfway, contrarily, the water didn't stop, but became too much... because the drain in the bathroom was blocked.

It almost flooded into the living room.

"Ho Ho". Looking at the water rising to his ankles and the bubbles on his hair, he selected decisively to rinse them off first.

The profile of a single man really mattered, especially when Yuan Zhou was still a single dog now.

"It must have been not cleaned for too long." Yuan Zhou put on his clothing and crouched at the door of the bathroom to observe the drain carefully. Then he found it was really blocked and thus said affirmatively.

The small ads all over the street now played their roles of first aid. It was the first time that Yuan Zhou needed to clear out the drain, therefore it took him quite a while to find the useful small ad pasted at the neighboring store.

He dialed the phone number on the ads and soon the phone was answered, "Hello. We do drain cleaning." It was a middle-aged woman who answered the phone.

The candid answer straightforwardly made Yuan Zhou speechless for a while. After that, he said, "The drain of my

bathroom is blocked. Can you fix it?"

Along with the candid answer of the woman, Yuan Zhou asked directly.

"No problem. What's your address? And what's inside?" The woman at the other end said with readiness.

"I don't really know what exactly is inside. Normally, the floor drain works well and it's the first time that it got blocked." Yuan Zhou described the problem in details and ended up with a consensus with the woman. Then he hung off the phone.

Naturally, the system wasn't responsible for the drain problem, either. In regard to anything unrelated to culinary skills, the system acted as if it hadn't existed, to which Yuan Zhou was quite used.

While Yuan Zhou had found the solution to his problem over here, Wu Zhou had also made a date with his girlfriend to come over here and eat the prawns. In response to her boyfriend's considerate care, Zhuang Xinmu agreed with readiness, of course.

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Chapter 248: Yuan Zhou Pursuing Perfection

The person who arrived first at lunch time was always Zhou Jia. Normally, she started work on her own initiative as soon as she entered the restaurant. Nevertheless, today, she was stopped by Yuan Zhou before she got to work.

"Zhou Jia, paste them on the menu." Yuan Zhou took out a few paper strips that were obviously cut from an A4 paper.

"Where?" Zhou Jia asked carefully.

"Right over there. Paste it firmly." Yuan Zhou pointed to the right positions.

"Ok. So we aren't providing these dishes, right? When can we provide them?" After pasting it on the menu, Zhou Jia asked.

After all, there were only such words as "temporarily unavailable" on the paper strip.

"Two days later starting from today," Yuan Zhou looked at the wound on his little finger and said calmly.

"Ok, I got it." Zhou Jia nodded the head, indicating that she knew that.

"Humm, that's it." After saying that, Yuan Zhou also started to tidy up the kitchen and make preparations for lunch time.

"Zhou Zhou, you say the vinegar in Boss Yuan's restaurant is very delicious?" Zhuang Xinmu was dressed in a white shirt inside and a suspender skirt outside, looking beautiful and adorable.

Wu Zhou was just concentrating on his girlfriend's beautiful appearance and totally didn't pay attention to her question. Suspender skirts turned out to be the best thing to make one young at heart.

"Wu Zhou." Seeing Wu Zhou stare at her and become dumbfounded, Zhuang Xinmu grasped his ear firmly discontentedly.

"Ah, yes. It's really delicious. An old man said it's Celestial Vinegar." Wu Zhou reacted quickly and immediately began to explain.

"Celestial Vinegar? I only heard of that before. What color is it?" Although she had been to Yuan Zhou's restaurant for a few times, she had never eaten the soup dumplings with vinegar.

"Let's go. We can order a serving of vinegar and Phoenix-Tail Prawns. The match will be definitely delicious," Wu Zhou said earnestly.

"Alright. You decide." Since her boyfriend had arranged

everything, Zhuang Xinmu agreed readily.

The two of them walked quickly toward Yuan Zhou's restaurant. For the sake of his girlfriend, Wu Zhou specifically asked for an hour off, just in order to have lunch at the earliest time. Although it took him some time to pick up his girlfriend, there was no problem to eat it in the first round.

"Come on. Nobody's there. Let's hurry inside." Wu Zhou grasped Zhuang Xinmu's hands and walked into Yuan Zhou's restaurant in quick steps.

"Great. We are the first." Having seated themselves, Zhuang Xinmu sighed with emotion happily.

"Boss, a plate of celestial vinegar plus Phoenix-Tail Prawns." Said Wu Zhou generously.

He was truly generous. The price of the Phoenix-Tail Prawns was 1288 RMB per serving. It was the very first time that Wu Zhou and Zhuang Xinmu had eaten the dish. Even if they were greedy for other dishes in normal times, they ordered no more than an Egg Fried Rice and a serving of Jinling Grass.

"I'm sorry, but the dish cannot be served temporarily today and tomorrow." Zhou Jia went up and greeted them courteously.

"What the hell?" Wu Zhou revealed a manner of disbelief.

"Why aren't you serving the dish for these two days?" Zhuang Xinmu straightforwardly asked.

"It's marked on the menu." With a smile, Zhou Jia said while pointing at the menu behind them.

"Boss, Boss Yuan, you didn't write that this morning," Wu Zhou pointed at the paper strip and said discontentedly.

"Humm, I'm injured on my finger and am unable to cook the prawns," with a nod, Yuan Zhou answered frankly.

"Is it serious?" Wu Zhou and Zhuang Xinmu asked with a caring tone at the same time.

Even Zhou Jia, who didn't know about that, revealed a concerned expression.

"Here it is. The injury will affect the sculpture." Yuan Zhou held up the bloodless injury and told them earnestly.

"Eh..." Wu Zhou indicated that he really choked.

With only a piece of flesh off, an adult man surprisingly said it would affect his sculpting work. Both Wu Zhou and Zhuang Xinmu felt speechless about that.

However, they instantly thought of the occasion when he got

injured on the face and then rested for days. Immediately, they asked.

"Boss, you are not going to rest again since you have just been back, are you?" Thinking that Boss Yuan would close the restaurant again, Zhuang Xinmu didn't feel good for an instant.

"No, I won't." Yuan Zhou's answer was always so simple and clear.

"That's great." This time, Wu Zhou and Zhuang Xinmu let out a sigh of relief together.

If Yuan Zhou's restaurant was open, only a look at it would be satisfactory, even if they couldn't afford it. Every time they passed by, they would reminisce about the taste while eating there. It was also a kind of happiness.

"Hold on. The key point is what we shall do with our Prawn Eaten with Vinegar dish today?" Wu Zhou reacted first.

"Never mind. I think the Clear Broth Noodle Soup is also not bad," Zhuang Xinmu said considerately.

"Honey, I'm so sorry for not fulfilling your wish for eating prawns." Wu Zhou began to explain and coax his girlfriend while looking at her with deep love.

In Yuan Zhou's eyes, however, he wasn't actually explaining but

was showing off their intimate relationships.

Life is that even you are in your own store, you can't evade from being flaunted with others' intimacy. Luckily, Yuan Zhou's endurance had been greatly toughened by the former imperial royal chef, Mr. Ma.

Only after a long words of love did they begin to order dishes.

"Two bowls of Clear Broth Noodle Soup." Wu Zhou made a gesture of "two", indicating he wanted two bowls.

"Ok." Yuan Zhou nodded the head seriously and then went to cook noodles.

"Hi, what do you want to eat today?" Zhou Jia uttered and inquired.

The moment they ordered their dishes, the customers outside began to walk into the restaurant one after another. And Zhou Jia started to greet them earnestly. Of course, she also had to explain to them about the dishes being unavailable for these two days.

Time passed quickly. It was soon 12:30. A cleanly and neatly dressed middle-aged woman who was carrying a 2-year-old baby cut the line and entered the restaurant from outside the restaurant.

"Sorry, you can't cut the line," Zhou Jia went up and said to her

with courtesy.

"I'm not here to eat. I came to clear out the drain. Your boss called me this morning." The middle-aged woman might have felt that she had affected their business, hence got a little embarrassed. Nevertheless, she still said directly.

"I told her to come here," Only after finishing cooking the dishes did Yuan Zhou say.

"Hello. The drain is upstairs. Can you clean it now?" Yuan Zhou turned the head and asked the woman.

"If it's not convenient for you now, I have to come over again tomorrow." Standing in the main hall full of customers, the middle-aged woman was a little embarrassed.

"Never mind. No problem. You can go up." Yuan Zhou indicated there wasn't any inconvenience.

After that, Yuan Zhou opened access to the long table and let the woman in. While leaning to one side, she tried her best to stand with her back against the wall and carried her baby in her arms with one hand holding a big box. The woman looked very clean.

"Zhou Jia, you go and continue taking orders." Yuan Zhou instructed Zhou Jia and then led the woman upstairs.

When they got to the second floor, however, the middle-aged

woman looked around the confined space of the second floor and found there was nowhere to place her baby.

Having thought for a while, the woman had to carry the baby with one hand and open the box with the other. Then, she started to bring out a rope out and seemingly intended to tie the baby somewhere. The baby, nevertheless, might have been used to that, thus he just looked around curiously with his widely open eyes, neither crying nor screaming.

"Give him to me. Let me help you." Just before the woman tied his baby, Yuan Zhou proposed.

"No, I can't. I can't bother you." The woman refused at first.

Nevertheless, Yuan Zhou just picked up the baby directly. It was, of course, more comfortable to be held in arms than being tied. Therefore, the baby didn't struggle and remained quite obedient. Seeing that, the woman had to say thanks to Yuan Zhou.

While taking the tools, she began to work carefully.

As he was carrying the baby, he was naturally unable to cook after he walked downstairs.

"One moment, please. For the time delayed, I will extend the business hours," Yuan Zhou said courteously.

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Chapter 249: Yuan Zhou's Three Outlooks

After Yuan Zhou said that there would be a delay, customers at the latter part of the line left immediately, but most stayed. After all, it didn't take much time.

Only then did the middle-aged woman at the second floor open the box and take out her work clothes. After she got dressed and wrapped herself tightly, she began to clear out the drain.

"Boss, what about I carrying him for you?" Zhou Jia came forward and said.

"Yeah, good idea. Boss Yuan, you can give the baby to the girl to carry," the customers anxious for the meal suggested.

"No need. I can manage it myself," Looking at the baby in his arms, Yuan Zhou said gently.

Carrying the baby in his arms, Yuan Zhou took a look at his own kitchen. The baby was looking around curiously with his big dark eyes and lying curled up in Yuan Zhou's arms obediently all along. He didn't try to touch anything.

The customers who waited in line nevertheless began to chat.

"What do you think is wrong with Boss Yuan? Why is he carrying the baby? He is totally wasting our time," a young man said with discontent.

"I think so, too. The woman that clears out the drain, tsk....." The people who chimed in clearly expressed their standpoint with that "tsk".

"Yeah, you are right. Luckily, there isn't a bad smell. Otherwise, it will severely affect our mood." A girl who liked cleanliness also found it difficult to withstand her.

"What are you guys paying attention to? Don't you think Boss Yuan is so nice?" Another person didn't agree with their opinions.

"That's true. The culinary skills of Boss Yuan are definitely very good." Speaking of Yuan Zhou, what everyone generally accepted were still his supreme culinary skills.

"I feel Boss Yuan is also a nice person." The regular customers knew Yuan Zhou. He just had a temperament of being cold outside but warm-hearted inside.

"Last time when it was raining, Boss Yuan prepared towels for free to wipe the rainwater." The several customers who had been here for a meal in the heavy rain still remembered that.

"Yeah, that's also true. Boss Yuan is indeed quite warm-hearted," the customers said conclusively.

Yuan Zhou didn't participate in the heated discussions, nor did the woman who worked carefully on the second floor. She finished

the work and changed her clothes, shoes, and hat very soon. After getting dressed and ensuring no bad smells lingered, she walked downstairs.

"It's only a plastic bag that was blocking the drain. I have handled it." The middle-aged woman reached out her hands to receive her own child while revealing the reason.

"Ok. Sorry to bother you. Here is the pay." Yuan Zhou took out a clamp and picked up the money and then gave it to her.

During business time, Yuan Zhou never touched money with his hands. After all, the bacteria on the notes were too much.

"Thank you." The woman expressed her gratitude earnestly. Then, she received the money and walked out of the restaurant from the back door.

"Take care." Seeing the woman carry the baby and walk away, Yuan Zhou closed the back door.

Having slightly tidied up himself, he said, "The dishes can be ordered now."

"Everybody, now you can order the dishes. Please tell me the orders over here." Zhou Jia uttered timely.

"I have waited for so long. One serving of Egg Fried Rice, please." A person couldn't wait to order the dishes.

"Boss Yuan, you are so caring. Please provide me with a serving of Sautéed Vermicelli with Spicy Minced Pork." Looking at Yuan Zhou with quite a gentle expression, the girl started to order her dishes.

"Boss Yuan, why didn't you tell the woman to come next time or not to take the kid here? How troublesome it is!" The young man who had complained just now couldn't help saying that to Yuan Zhou.

"Yeah. Boss Yuan, why are you so courteous to a woman that clears out the drain? Besides, you even help her to carry her baby. She really is unprofessional. Carrying her baby would inevitably affect her job." This was a person who was picky about jobs.

"It's not good to say so. If anybody can help her to take care of her baby, who would like to take her own baby to clear out drains? It's all about living. No one has it easy," said Man Man. "However, you have to make up for the delayed 10 minutes or so. It's not a good deal, Boss Yuan."

Normally, Yuan Zhou would be reluctant to explain nor did he take notice of the customers' questions. But, he answered this time.

His voice was, as usual, a little hollow from the face mask but fairly clear. He said, "I'm no more than a man who cooks."

"Boss Yuan, how can one that clears out the drain match with

your job?" somebody answered.

"When does the occupation of chef rank higher than other occupations?" Yuan Zhou asked back.

When? It was probably when people covered their noses and detoured as soon as they heard one was to clear out the drain.

Yuan Zhou didn't divert his attention anymore. It was more important to take care of the dishes in the pot.

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The business time at noon passed soon. Yuan Zhou, again, became free. Only then did he get time to refine the honey. The honey collected was cool-natured when it was unprocessed. After refining, it would become mild natured and hence was suitable for most people to eat.

"System, what do you think of my honey?" Yuan Zhou took out the honeycomb that he had cut and appeared quite satisfied with it.

After all, he collected it after being stung for several times.

The system displayed, "The quality honey should be white in color and have small crystalline granules with fragrance of pear blossom. Nevertheless, the royal jelly is the secretion from the hypopharyngeal gland of the worker bees that attend to bee pupae

in a honeycomb. It's the food provided for the pupae that will become the queen bee and also the food for the queen bee in her lifetime."

"According to the different pollen that the bees eat, the colors of the royal jelly would slightly change, normally into milky white and yellowish. Besides, contained in the royal jelly are also very high content of some longevity factors."

"I just want to know how is my honey?" Having failed in acting cool, Yuan Zhou was a little sorrowful.

The system displayed, "Although the honey that host has collected isn't the best, it's also considered as a superior one."

"Thanks for your compliments." Yuan Zhou then became speechless. It turned out that processing the honey was more important.

As the royal jelly was a kind of emulsions secreted by the young adult bees after eating the pollen, the taste was extremely sour with a slight hint of spiciness. The texture and taste were so bad that they couldn't be used as the flavorings directly.

Neither the honey nor the royal jelly could be processed at high temperature; therefore, Yuan Zhou intended to refine the honey first before considering the new dish.

The honey would be refined well when a drop of water on it

could form a bead without dispersing. What Yuan Zhou used was a refining method that required a very long time, specifically one whole day. Of course, he didn't use the fire refining method.

For the whole afternoon, Yuan Zhou's restaurant was filled with fragrance of the honey.

"Little Boss Yuan, what delicacy are you making?" The neighboring Boss Tong stretched out her neck and asked.

"Honey. It's the bee honey I went to collect." Yuan Zhou was seated at the door and had just prepared to sculpt something. The Jinyaolou peony that he sculpted in the morning had already disappeared.

"That's really a good thing. There are many fake ones on the market currently," Boss Yuan sighed with emotion and said.

"You are right. What I collected is, nevertheless, genuine ones," said Yuan Zhou earnestly.

"Well, of course. The honey you have collected are naturally genuine ones." Boss Yuan was stunned for a while and then echoed.

"This young man still isn't good at communication." Boss Tong whispered in her heart. She had been doing business here for many years and already known that Yuan Zhou didn't do well in communicating with others. He wasn't honey-lipped.

She just didn't expect him to be the same even when he had grown up.

"Aunt Tong, I'm going to practice sculpting now." Yuan Zhou picked up the chosen radish and put it on the empty shelf, preparing to carve it.

"Wait. You carved so many sculptures every day and they were all taken away by others. What are you carving them for?" The shelf full of various flowers both bizarre and beautiful immediately became empty in a short moment when Boss Tong went to get the clean clothing.

"To practice my technique." Currently, Yuan Zhou was directly using the kitchen knife to sculpt flowers. It still needed constant practice to make his work better and more vivid.

"That does make sense. The craftsmanship for making a living can never be out of practice." Boss Tong nodded the head, indicating that she understood that.

"But you can put them away. Otherwise, they will disappear very soon." Boss Tong still instructed Yuan Zhou.

"Thank you, Boss Tong. However, it's a kind of affirmation that they like my work," said Yuan Zhou quite confidently.

Boss Tong found it inappropriate to advise him anymore. And Yuan Zhou also had his wish fulfilled and began to enjoy the time

of sculpting.

Chapter 250: Honey Tremella

Yuan Zhou was making a simple sculpture this time, as he needed to think of a dish that could best match the royal jelly at the same time.

"System, can the ingredient be used for desserts?" Yuan Zhou knew the royal jelly was required by many kinds of desserts or pastries.

The system displayed, "The royal jelly is from the secretion of the hypopharyngeal gland of the worker bees that attend to bee pupae in a honeycomb. It's the food provided for the pupa that will become the queen bee and also the food for the queen bee in its lifetime. Its taste is dominated by sour, astringency and spiciness. After refining, the astringency can be removed."

The system displayed very large characters this time, at the latter part describing the taste, in particular.

That was probably some sort of speechless ridicule. The dessert or pastry had to have the texture of both sour and spiciness at the same time. Furthermore, the sour texture was different from fruit acid due to the royal jelly being a secretion.

"Ok. Understood." Yuan Zhou had originally intended to upgrade his title of "Master of Cooked Wheaten Food", but presumably the idea failed temporarily.

While sculpting little animals one after another, Yuan Zhou was

thinking swiftly at the same time. When he finished sculpting all the 12 animal zodiacs (mouse, cow, tiger, rabbit, dragon, snake, horse, sheep, monkey, chicken, dog and pig that are used for symbolizing the particular year in which a person is born in Chinese), Yuan Zhou likewise figured out an idea.

The royal jelly couldn't be heated in high temperature and eaten along with scallions. It was better to eat it together with warm boiled water. Only in that way could its intrinsic nutrition be transmitted.

Yuan Zhou thought about the taste of each food carefully and tried to match them in his mind and then imagined the combinations of those tastes. That way, he could make the preliminary decision of which ingredients to be used.

"Pa", Yuan Zhou set down the last zodiac, the pig, gently and then started to inquire the system.

"System, I need some ingredients to try their flavor," Yuan Zhou said in a prim and determined tone.

The system displayed, "Host, you have collected totally 16.7 kgs of honey this time. Of them all, the royal jelly is 1.1 kgs and the propolis 2.0 kgs. After refining, there is only 0.97 kgs of royal jelly left."

"So there are so little ingredients." Yuan Zhou was rather speechless. He gave an imitation of dead fish eyes.

With so little amount, it was indeed improper to use it for experimentation. Suddenly, Yuan Zhou thought of a question, "System, what if I use up the honey?"

The system displayed, "I will provide the honey at intervals automatically."

"What do you mean by intervals?" In Yuan Zhou opinion, the food ingredients of the system basically came out of the blue.

The system kept silent for a long time before answering Yuan Zhou, this time.

The system displayed, "The royal jelly is from the secretion of the hypopharyngeal gland of the worker bees and the food provided to the pupa that will become the queen bee."

"I know that. I'm asking about why you can not provide the honey without limits," Yuan Zhou asked curiously.

The system displayed, "That depends on the mood of the bees."

"Haw?" Yuan Zhou felt the system must have travelled here from another space. What did the damn "depend on the mood of the bees" mean?

"The mood of the bees?" Yuan Zhou clearly knew every single character but found the combination hard to understand.

The system displayed, "The yield is scarce. So please use it cautiously."

"Ho Ho. Isn't the Xiangshui Rice scarce?" Yuan Zhou couldn't help ridiculing the system.

Wasn't such precious tribute rice also rare? Yuan Zhou indicated that he really couldn't comprehend what the system was thinking.

Nevertheless, the system no longer answered him. Through the conversations, however, Yuan Zhou discovered the system might have its own breeding base. It wasn't like what he had imagined before that the food ingredients came from the blue.

"How much can you provide each time?" Yuan Zhou was quite curious about that.

The system displayed, "That depends."

"System, are you raising bees?" asked Yuan Zhou on a whim.

After all, the major function of the royal jelly was to feed the queen bee. If the system could provide him with all royal jelly, it would be a large amount.

The system displayed, "Host, please endeavor to level up."

"It's truly a long-lost encouragement."

Yuan Zhou directly neglected the system's suggestion and started to consider the usage of the royal jelly. However, he still needed to make some tests to confirm whether to use vegetables or meat.

After finishing the twelve animals, Yuan Zhou went back to the restaurant and started to test the food ingredients. He added a drop of royal jelly every time, but without exception, the texture was all destroyed.

When Shen Min came over to work in the evening, Yuan Zhou still showed a thoughtful expression.

"Boss, I'm taking the customers upstairs now," Shen Min turned the head and said to Yuan Zhou.

"Ok. Go ahead. There are table lamps upstairs." Yuan Zhou nodded the head and then opened the sergestes wall. He himself nevertheless stayed in the kitchen.

"What's wrong with Boss Yuan today?" Fang Heng, who often came to drink the bamboo liquor, asked curiously.

"I have no idea." These were from Octopus and Tank, who came here to drink for the first time.

"He should be thinking about the new dishes," another man coming for the liquor said affirmatively.

"Everybody, please follow me." Shen Min interrupted their speculations.

Then, the several people became quiet temporarily and entered the pub one after another. Originally, the scenery in Yuan Zhou's pub gave an exceptional charm. The flowers in the small garden were blossoming while the breeze brought about a delicate fragrance.

Nevertheless, Yuan Zhou continued to stay in his kitchen and experiment on the food ingredients that could match the royal jelly. Ever since he got an attendant for the night shift, Yuan Zhou had never worried about the pub. Basically, he didn't go to the pub anymore.

Currently, the pub only provided one type of Bamboo Liquor. Apart from getting liquor for the customers, Shen Min didn't have any other work. Therefore, Yuan Zhou was quite assured.

A few hours later, Yuan Zhou still ended up with nothing. The customers also began to leave the pub one after another. Being the last one that left, Shen Min closed the door. Yuan Zhou then returned to his own room.

After a sound of "Hua La", Yuan Zhou drew the curtain apart. In the quiet street, Shen Min, who was alone, arrived at the bus stop. In no more than two minutes, the last bus arrived.

With Yuan Zhou's sharp eyes, he could easily saw Shen Min get

on the bus. He did the same every night to ensure she got on bus safely before drawing the curtains and heading to wash up and sleep.

With something on his mind, Yuan Zhou thought about the royal jelly all night long. When he woke up early next morning, he suddenly shouted, "Yes, it's tremella."

Luckily, Yuan Zhou's restaurant had a pretty good soundproofing effect and thus his neighbors couldn't hear that. Otherwise, he would probably have scared many people that were sound asleep. It was only 5:10 in the morning.

Before he had time to think about jogging, Yuan Zhou finished washing up hurriedly and ran downstairs with a heavy sound of "Dong Dong Dong". During the process, he didn't forget to tell the system, "Royal jelly can match well with tremella. It's tremella."

He acted as if he had grasped the essence of a peerless martial art.

The system displayed, "The ingredient has been released. Host, you can receive it by yourself."

Yuan Zhou went into the kitchen and looked around swiftly. He then easily located the cabinet marked with Tremella. With a sound of "Zhi Ya", he directly opened the cabinet, in which several fresh tremella were growing over a segment of a wooden pole.

"Are these fresh tremella?" Yuan Zhou was a little puzzled.

The system displayed, "Living tremella isn't poisonous and could be eaten with safety."

"Have the harmful substances inside been removed?" Yuan Zhou trusted the system, but the moral quality of the system wasn't good. It had deceived Yuan Zhou for quite a few times and moreover aimed at Yuan Zhou mainly.

The system displayed, "Tremella is one of the "Eight Treasures" among table delicacies from land and sea. It's a superior, natural, nourishing, edible, and medicinal fungoid. Besides, it enjoys the laudatory title of "King of Fungoids". The royal families of all past dynasties regarded tremella as the "food of longevity" and "medicine of immortality". The hazardous substances contained therein have all been removed."

"Alright." Then, Yuan Zhou took out a bamboo knife and started to cut the tremella off.

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Chapter 251: Surprising Price

Having gotten up early in the morning, Yuan Zhou felt fairly spirited. The small wound on his hand was likewise no longer hurting. He was quick with his hands while picking the tremella and was even more professional than an experienced worker.

The tremella was very beautiful. The first one that Yuan Zhou picked looked like a peony. It was plump and tender with its color milky white and besides, was pretty and glossy. The whole petal-like part was tottering in Yuan Zhou's hands.

The tremella that Yuan Zhou picked for his own use didn't have any connective tissue. Once it was washed clean, it could be used directly.

Therefore, Yuan Zhou couldn't wait to soak and clean it and then carefully wash the impurities away. Only after that did he get down to the preparations of the dish.

Different from other ingredients, the tremella couldn't be cut by knives. He could only tear it down with his hands. Only in that way could the tremella be separated as per its intrinsic textures and would greatly enhance the taste of the dish.

A little while later, Yuan Zhou prepared a plate of tremella salad and also cooked a bowl of Clear Broth Noodle Soup to match the dish for his breakfast.

The tremella salad was served on a dark green plate. The spiral

laces around the edges of the plate made the tremella look quite beautiful.

This time, Yuan Zhou only put the royal jelly and tremella in the salad. Therefore, it gave people a feeling that the dish consisted merely of some milky white tremella and white and transparent cement-like taffy.

A salad naturally wouldn't have much fragrance. But when Yuan Zhou approached the plate, he could smell the scent of the pear blossom with a slight hint of tremella.

"There's definitely no problem." Yuan Zhou picked some tremella with the chopsticks and started to eat it confidently.

A fresh and brisk texture with slight softness and a delicate fragrance rushed into his mouth cavity in an instant. The slight spiciness of the royal jelly brought about a layered flavor to the bland tremella while the sour was perfectly mixed with the intrinsic bland taste of tremella.

"Perfect match," Yuan Zhou gulped down a mouthful of the tremella salad and said with satisfaction.

"I indeed have talent in regards to culinary skills." While eating the Clear Broth Noodle Soup along with the tremella salad, Yuan Zhou let out a sigh with emotion.

After the meal, Yuan Zhou's bowl was exactly the same as that of

other customers. It was so clean that he could even see his reflection with it.

"System, what's the price of this dish?" Asked Yuan Zhou on his own initiative.

His limited level didn't allow him to set the price by himself.

The system displayed, "The dish belongs to the reward of the system, so I won't participate in setting the price. Nor will I share the income."

"What the hell! Did I get up the wrong way or lose my eyesight?" Yuan Zhou stood up from his position immediately and murmured incredibly.

Having checked the contents carefully for quite a few times, Yuan Zhou finally confirmed the system indeed said that it wouldn't share the income. To a money-grubber like Yuan Zhou, such a matter was truly more important than anything else.

"It's the first time I set the price. I think a superior dish such as this deserves a good price." Yuan Zhou muttered to himself while stroking his forehead and looking at the clean bowl.

After quite a while, Yuan Zhou found that he really wasn't clear about the market price of the dish. After all, as a man, he seldom bought tremella to make soup.

While thinking, he took up the phone and suddenly caught sight of a random-number generator APP that could provide a number randomly by shaking.

"Let me use this one to decide." Yuan Zhou almost gave himself a thumbs-up gesture for his cleverness.

He turned on the APP and directly began to shake it for a number. Good fortune did visit Yuan Zhou. He got a very good number, which matched his to-be position of the Primary Master Chef.

Therefore, Yuan Zhou prepared a small paper as large as a piece of dried tofu and pasted it on the menu. The location of the paper was selected skillfully, by the edge of a lotus flower.

"It's really a nice position," having pasted it well, Yuan Zhou said contentedly.

After solving the problem, Yuan Zhou let out a sigh of relief. It was still early and not suitable to exercise immediately. Having thought for a while, Yuan Zhou continued to study how to make the honey tremella.

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Time is like the sand in one's hand. The tighter you hold, the easier it goes away.

For the whole morning, Zhou Jia failed in noticing the small paper pasted by Yuan Zhou. Many visitors were basically regular customers. Even if some were not, they had at least been here for one or two times. However, none of them discovered the new dish developed by Yuan Zhou.

Yuan Zhou, likewise, wasn't prepared to remind them.

Zhou Jia inquired Yuan Zhou with a caring tone when she saw the dish of Phoenix-Tail Prawns still marked with "unavailable" during the lunch time.

"Boss, hasn't your wound recovered yet?" Zhou Jia asked with concern.

"Temporarily, no." Yuan Zhou nodded the head.

Instead of asking more, Zhou Jia just looked at Yuan Zhou with a caring manner.

The bustling lunch time soon passed. The day would soon be over, but still no one discovered Yuan Zhou's new dish.

Nevertheless, Yuan Zhou still didn't intend to remind them. Even in the evening when the business time was longer, Yuan Zhou didn't remind the customers either.

"Zou Jian, is it really necessary to read the outer wrapping of a chewing gum for so long? It's going to be our turn." A girl's clear

and melodious sound interrupted Zou Jian's reading.

"Honey, I'll finish it very soon," Zou Jian sped up reading while saying that.

"When can your obsessive compulsive disorder be cured?" The girl pouted discontentedly.

Zou Jian had a weird habit of reading anything related to him.

For example, the outer wrapping of the chewing gum or various packaging. Of course, they must have something to do with him, who was a new and graceful victim of obsessive compulsive disorder.

At that time, Zou Jian likewise finished reading the outer wrapping. He put it down hurriedly and began to coax his girlfriend.

"Honey, it'll be cured soon, right away." Zou Jian held his girlfriend's hands and guaranteed to her earnestly.

"Humph. You'd better bear your guarantee in mind." The girl believed in his words as always.

As soon as they entered the restaurant, however, Zou Jian started again.

The conspicuous menu on the wall instantly stimulated Zou Jian's obsessive compulsive disorder.

"Can I ask what you would like to eat, please?" Seeing the two people looking at the menu earnestly, Zhou Jia went up and asked.

"Wait a moment. I will order our dishes immediately. Honey, you go and get yourself seated. I'll be there right away," Zhou Jian continued to read the menu after saying that.

"Humph. Again. Just let him be." The girl let out a humph and then turned around and got seated.

When Zou Jian realized that his girlfriend wasn't really angry, he was rest assured and continued to read it.

The obsessive compulsive disorder made Zou Jian read the menu on the wall very carefully, therefore he caught sight of Yuan Zhou's new dish.

"Honey, there's promotion here," said Zou Jian with a surprised expression.

"That's impossible. If there's any promotion, the scene would be awfully grand," said the girl with certainty.

Just look back upon the huge crowds of people when Yuan Zhou offered the discount last time. It was quite a different scene from now.

"It's real. Look here." Zou Jian dragged his girlfriend going up and checked the small paper that discovered by him.

The conversation between them aroused everybody's attention.

"Is there really a promotion?" The customers asked in surprise.

"Little girl, what promotion do you have?" The quickest way was of course to ask Zhou Jia.

However, Zhou Jia was also puzzled.

"Boss, what's the promotion?" Zhou Jia asked nervously while looking at Yuan Zhou.

"You can find it on the wall." Said Yuan Zhou calmly.

"Alright. I'm going to check right now." Immediately, Zhou Jia looked toward the wall and then became even more muddled.

Although dishes in Yuan Zhou's restaurant well deserved the prices, they were never cheap.

At the lower part of the menu, however, there appeared some characters as small as flies, saying, "New Dish Served. Honey Tremella, 1 RMB / Serving."

"Boss Yuan, did you omit three zeros behind the number 1?" A customer pushed his jaw back and asked earnestly.

"No, I didn't. That's the price." Yuan Zhou revealed a calm manner.

Of course, Yuan Zhou definitely guaranteed that he didn't have the repulsive habit of watching the customers' jaw-dropping shock.

Chapter 252: Main Mission and Side Mission

As soon as Yuan Zhou's words were uttered, the customers became more suspicious.

"Boss Yuan, I'm not a knowledgeable person. You just tell me honestly if the price is based on Bitcoin. I don't have that kind of thing," a customer said cautiously.

"Or based on dinar of Kuwait. No matter which one it is, I have neither of them." This customer seemed to be well-informed. Luckily, Yuan Zhou knew about these two currencies.

One was a virtual currency while the other was the currency used in the northeast part of the Arab region.

"It's unnecessary. I only receive RMB at the moment," said Yuan Zhou affirmatively and indifferently.

Such an affirmative tone, nevertheless, made the customers doubt him even more.

"Get one serving for me." It was Zou Jian who didn't have so much concern.

"Ok, wait a moment." Zhou Jia took the order hurriedly.

"It's totally 1 RMB. Please pay first." Zhou Jia became nervous

because she felt she had slightly neglected her duty. As a result, she almost forgot to receive the money first.

Zou Jian brought out a coin from his pocket neatly and handed it over to Yuan Zhou, who subsequently took out a plate to receive the money and poured it into the money box. During the process, all the customers in the restaurant looked at the scene together.

"It's surprisingly true. Should I order a serving of that, too?" The customers thought privately in their hearts.

Yuan Zhou was preparing the dish cleanly in the kitchen. Everything appeared to be as usual. However, among the customers was an undercurrent of anxiety. They all waited to see what dish Yuan Zhou would serve.

What Yuan Zhou used was the raw tremella, thus he needed to blanch them with boiled water. That way, the tremella could be crisper and meanwhile, its soft texture, fragrance and tenderness wouldn't be affected.

The water for blanching was likewise quite important. Therefore, the system especially gave some explanations.

The system displayed, "The ever-flowing water of rivers and lakes is usually used to make tea or wine while mountain spring water is used more often in cooking. In order to get the best water of Jinshan Spring, people have to take boats out during midnight and head to the center of the river."

"First, drill many small holes on a wood barrel with a lid and get them plugged with wooden plugs tied with ropes; then, sink the barrel into the bottom of the river; after that, pull the plugs out with the ropes and the barrel will intake the water; in the end, get the barrel out. Only in that way can the genuine spring water be obtained."

"So the water I drink every day is also processed in this way?" Yuan Zhou suddenly asked curiously.

The system displayed, "No, it isn't."

The answer came straight to the point.

"The water I drink is definitely better," Yuan Zhou tasted the two different water and then murmured.

With such water especially for blanching the tremella, its texture and color could be maintained at the best state.

When the tremella salad was served, the milky white tremella was thinly covered with the translucent royal jelly, looking glossier and more beautiful.

"So this is the honey tremella?" Zou Jian picked the tremella with his chopsticks and looked at it carefully, like an old pedant.

"Yes. Please enjoy." Yuan Zhou made a gesture of "Please" and then continued to cook other dishes.

"Hurry up. Try the taste." Watching Zou Jian and his girlfriend not eat after a long time, the customers at the side began to urge them.

"Try the dish. Boss Yuan's craftsmanship is the best," a customer advised them earnestly.

"Let's try, shall we? Honey." Zou Jian consulted his girlfriend's opinion carefully.

"Of course. I have expected to come here and eat since long ago." The girl picked up the chopsticks and began to eat.

Among color, fragrance and taste, color was always the first factor that people would notice, especially for such salads. Since the fragrance was bland, people would inevitably pay attention to the color.

However, the color of the honey tremella was extremely beautiful. After being picked up, the wavering milky white tremella and the dark brown chopsticks formed a distinct comparison. The honey over the tremella seemed as if it were going to flow down at any moment and people couldn't help reaching their hands to receive it.

As expected, the girl opened one palm in the air under the tremella as if to receive the honey and then she stuffed it into her mouth. The first sensation on her tongue was the light sweetness and then the refreshing sour taste, which aroused her appetite

immediately. With a slight chew, the crisp and tender texture along with the faint stimulation of the spiciness as well as the light saltiness made it a perfect salad dish.

"The combination of the softness and stickiness is really a strange taste," the girl stopped picking the tremella and said happily.

"It's truly very nice. Appetizing," Zou Jian also said with satisfaction.

The two of them began to immerse themselves in eating the dish quickly, like the wind puffing the clouds away.

"A serving of honey tremella." A smart customer began to order the dish immediately.

"Get me one serving, too." Since the price was only 1 RMB, the customers felt it a loss not to order it.

It was simply a price of conscience. Besides, it would be greatly worth their pains of waiting for such a long time to order the dish at such a low price.

Therefore, almost everybody ordered the honey tremella soon.

"Boss Yuan, get me one serving of honey tremella." Man Man rushed over out of breath.

"Ok. One moment, please." Zhou Jia greeted her with a smiling face.

The next customer following her was Yin Ya, who likewise said, "One serving of honey tremella."

"Sorry, all sold out," just when Zhou Jia intended to take the order, Yuan Zhou suddenly said.

"Pardon? Damn it." Despite her good temper, Yin Ya got a little angry.

Since the person right ahead of her had ordered the dish, she unexpectedly didn't manage to order one.

"The royal jelly, the major ingredient of honey tremella, has been used up. Please come earlier next time," Yuan Zhou said indifferently.

"Why is it used up so soon? Not even a little left?" asked Yin Ya in despair.

"Yeah, why? Boss Yuan, are you sure that they are sold out. There's still one hour left before the dinner time ends." Other customers waiting behind in line also started to inquire one after another.

Most of them came here after they heard that Yuan Zhou newly served a dish of 1 RMB.

"Royal jelly is rare," Yuan Zhou said primly.

"Are you going to provide the dish tomorrow?" Yin Ya sensitively felt something was wrong.

Just now, Yuan Zhou told them to be earlier next time rather than the next day.

"No, I won't." Yuan Zhou answered bluntly and neatly.

"Pardon? If you won't provide it tomorrow, then when will you provide it again?" Yin Ya stuck with the question and asked.

Other customers behind her were also listening to them carefully.

After a long silence, Yuan Zhou said, "That depends on the mood of the bees."

What the f*ck!

Then, Yin Ya and other customers all revealed an expression of "Are you fu*king kidding me?".

"Ho Ho. Does Boss Yuan also tell jokes? Though it's not funny at all," a customer in the line said in surprise.

"Boss Yuan, does your to-be girlfriend know you are so awesome?" said Yin Ya with hatred.

"Yes, she knows." Yuan Zhou answered confidently.

"Boss Yuan, why don't you go up to the heaven?" a customer couldn't help asking that.

"Please order your dishes," Yuan Zhou took a look at the time and said softly.

"Damn it. One serving of Egg Fried Rice. I almost forget the time." The customers reacted right away.

Only Yin Ya didn't give up. Of course, all others that ordered their dishes and waited in line were still listening carefully to the conversation between Yuan Zhou and Yin Ya.

"Boss Yuan, you must tell me an exact time. Look, the characters are so small. Who do you think can see that clearly?" Yin Ya was extremely discontented. She was here for breakfast this morning, but didn't see the paper.

"There are only a few words. The size is just fine." With his eyesight, Yuan Zhou naturally could see the notice quite easily.

"When will the dish of honey tremella be served again?" On

thinking of the texture described by others, Yin Ya felt the saliva was gathering in her mouth.

It was sour and sweet with a hint of pungent spiciness as well as the typical texture of the tremella. Just by thinking about it, she felt the taste would be fantastic.

Yuan Zhou was stunned for an instant and then he answered, "That depends on the mood of the bees."

The reason why Yuan Zhou got stunned was very simple. Not having released any mission recently, the system released a mission again. What's more, there were two missions at a time.

Chapter 253: A Great Mission Reward

"Boss Yuan, don't ever try to fool me." Yin Ya felt her good cultivation was greatly provoked.

"It's the truth." Yuan Zhou was still as solemn and earnest as always.

However, Yin Ya inexplicably felt her hands itchy and wanted to beat someone up.

But when she found Yuan Zhou didn't intend to answer her at all, she likewise didn't ask for embarrassment and turned to negotiate with Man Man.

"Never. Don't even think about it." Man Man made a gesture of cross above her chest and refused firmly.

"Ok, are you sure?" Yin Ya opened her eyes wide in quite an earnest manner and looked at Man Man threateningly.

"Couldn't you just use another method?" Man Man simply wanted to choke herself to death helplessly.

The volume of dishes in Yuan Zhou's restaurant was almost the same to that of ordinary restaurants. If it was the food of other restaurants, Man Man could eat her fill with one serving. But that damn guy, Yuan Zhou, cooked the dishes so appetizing that she couldn't help eating more than that. Since that small amount of

the dish was barely enough for herself, she was definitely reluctant to share it with the other person.

However, she had to. Because Yin Ya knew that she had an unrequited love for a man and now threatened to help her tell that man. She was shy about that and had to agree to her unreasonable request.

"It doesn't matter. As long as it works, it's a good method." Yin Ya revealed a complacent manner.

"1/3. No more. Otherwise, you just feel free to disclose it," Man Man made up her mind and said toughly.

In front of delicacies, losing face wasn't an important thing.

"Deal," Yin Ya said with readiness.

"Every time it's the same, every time. If you do it again, I will also disclose your secret," said Man Man with resentment.

"Alright. Whatever you want," Yin Ya made a gesture of "Please" and said calmly.

"Yin Ya, I have never expected you are such a person." Man Man stared at Yin Ya discontentedly.

"I can treat you to Egg Fried Rice." Yin Ya used her unique skill.

"OK." Man Man swallowed up the complaints that were about to be uttered and immediately accepted with a beam of delight.

The two close friends reached an agreement happily.

Just in a little while, Yuan Zhou carried up the honey tremella, "Please enjoy."

"Thank you, Boss Yuan. Please get us two servings of Egg Fried Rice." Man Man volunteered swiftly.

"Alright. One moment, please." Yuan Zhou nodded the head and took the order.

Yuan Zhou was doing his work earnestly as if nothing were on his mind and he didn't even get time to check the mission released by the system. It was his constant principle not to do anything unrelated to his work.

The higher the culinary skills were, the more one can experience the importance of concentration. Therefore, Yuan Zhou had always been attentive.

Although it had been quite a while after the working hours, Director Wang was still busy with her work diligently. This time, it was a matter of complaints.

[The side street is much too crowded during mealtimes. I hope the street administration office can solve the problem in time.] Director Wang opened the Complaint and Proposals, which were basically filled with such contents.

"The matter of being crowded seems to be the result of Yuan Zhou's restaurant." Director Wang had been working in this position for years and naturally knew about the side street.

The formerly run-down and quiet side street was currently busy and bustling after Yuan Zhou ran his restaurant business. However, this problem was really not easy to deal with.

Taking the complaint form, Director Wang was lost in deep thought.

So was Wu Hai, who was right now taking his phone.

His phone was filled with malice. All were evil intentions from the foodies.

[Wu Hai, let me tell you a good news.] from Man Man Who Changes the Name At Any Time.

[What is it?] Wu Hai took out his phone at an interval of the art exhibition and received the above message from a private chat. Then he replied conveniently.

[Boss Yuan has developed a new dish. It's awfully delicious.] Man

Man sent him a photo of the dish considerately.

Yuan Zhou's dishes could consistently be used as the cover of gourmet magazines once they were taken a photo of, not even requiring PS. Therefore, this photo with high resolution directly gave Wu Hai a heavy blow.

[Damn it. Friendship ends now." Wu Hai typed the several words in the phone and straightforwardly threw it away.

"What's wrong, Hai?" With his sharp eyes and quick hands, Zheng Jiawei received the phone and asked with a caring tone.

"When can we finish?" While stroking his small mustache, Wu Hai appeared rather impatient.

"One hour later. It'll end up soon. If you feel tired, Hai, you can go have a rest," said Zheng Jiawei considerately.

"What I mean is when this damn art exhibition will end?" Wu Hai had always been famous for his hot temper. The way he was talking could be considered to be good.

"Be good, Hai. It doesn't matter. It will be over after another week." Zheng Jiawei gave him a glass of water. There was full of comfort in his tone.

"Zheng Jiawei, let me tell you. Don't ever hold such meaningless exhibitions anymore." Wu Hai stroked his small mustache

impatiently. After drinking the water, he felt the water likewise tasted bad, thus put the glass on the table heavily.

"There's a watermelon imported from Japan here. The watermelons we ordered this year have arrived. You savor one first," said Zheng Jiawei, who glanced at the messages on his phone and instantly understood what had happened.

"Ok. Go and cut some for me." This time, the way Wu Hai spoke was back to normal.

"No problem." Ever since Wu Hai was brought back by Wu Lin, Zheng Jiawei's girlfriend and Wu Hai's younger sister, Zheng Jiawei had taken precautions against such a day. Therefore, he managed to buy Wu Hai's most favorite fruits smartly.

A black watermelon imported from Japan that was worth tens of thousands of RMB temporarily pacified Wu Hai's restless heart. On the other side, the dinner time was likewise over in Yuan Zhou's restaurant.

"Business time ends now. Please come earlier tomorrow." Every time, the words were uttered by Yuan Zhou personally.

Otherwise, the effect wouldn't be so good. After all, it was Yuan Zhou who was the chef with wonderful craftsmanship.

Shen Min also came on time for the shift change with Zhou Jia.

As usual, some customers ordered their dishes when the business time was about to end. They just wanted to wait until the pub was opened and then eat it while drinking the liquor. Yuan Zhou always turned a blind eye to the behavior.

When the pub was open for business and only Yuan Zhou was in the kitchen, he tapped open the latest mission of the system.

[Main Mission] to become a regional gourmet representative

(Mission tips: Being a minor celebrity can no longer satisfy your wild ambition. You must become a regional representative within one calendar month. Young man, I have faith in you.)

[Mission reward] to get promoted by one level up; one chance to draw lottery; an upgrade reward.

(Reward tips: for such a great reward, young man, go and endeavor to get it.)

"System, can I get promoted once the mission is completed?" Yuan Zhou felt this mission might not be too difficult.

The system displayed, "Yes."

"There isn't a clear-cut boundary for this mission, is there?" After Yuan Zhou carefully studied the mission, he said with puzzlement.

The system displayed, "The gourmet map is updated once every month. Host, your restaurant must be listed as one of the regional representatives."

"So this is the time limit?" A careful inquiry would help to finish the mission better. More importantly, the mission could enable him to get promoted directly, which meant more money rushing toward him.

The system displayed, "Host, please read the mission tips carefully."

"The mission tips provided by you have never been reliable," Yuan Zhou ridiculed inwardly.

Every time, the mission tips and reward tips were practically meaningless. Besides, the wording even made Yuan Zhou want to beat it. Therefore, Yuan Zhou neglected them intentionally sometimes.

Then, he went back to read the mission tips even before he got time to check what the side mission was.

Chapter 254: Dongpo Pig Knuckle

Basically, Yuan Zhou's ridicules wouldn't be responded by the system, to which Yuan Zhou had gotten used. After checking the main mission, he directly continued checking the side mission.

[Side Mission] to collect 100 requests to open branch restaurants

(Mission tips: one couldn't be regarded as a master chef if no one applies for a branch restaurant.)

[Mission Reward] A recipe of Dongpo Pig Knuckle

(Reward tips: a main course of Sichuan Cuisines, a must-have dish for a master chef.)

"Does the collection of requests mean the requests from the customers? Does a sentence count?" Yuan Zhou reacted quickly and asked.

The system displayed, "Yes, you are right. Requests from 100 different people.)

As soon as the requirement showed up, Yuan Zhou's previous little wish was instantly put out. 100 requests weren't very difficult, but was absolutely not that easy to reach.

"Lucky that I finally have a main course now." Yuan Zhou looked

at the reward and was quite satisfied with the Dongpo Pig Knuckle.

The system should have already provided Yuan Zhou with a main course in Yuan Zhou's restaurant.

"A side mission and a main mission. They seem to have a relationship with each other," While stroking his front angle, Yuan Zhou looked at the two missions back and forth and said suddenly.

"Yes. That's it." On Yuan Zhou's face revealed a smile. He took up the phone and started to look up the information required by him.

As a man who often played single player games, it was fairly easy to open a forum.

This forum was the place where Sun Ming helped Yuan Zhou to advertise his restaurant and also it was a senior gourmet forum.

The first mission was to become the regional representative restaurant, therefore it would require much fame along with the condition that he couldn't publicize by himself. However, the fame was no longer confined to this small region.

Now that he couldn't publicize by himself, the gourmet map became the best way to publicize himself.

Both the abundant popularity and the requirement of the side mission could mostly be reached only with the help of tourists from other places.

After all, the demand for branch restaurants only came from those who couldn't eat the dishes locally. If they lived in Chengdu City, the demand would be much less. If they were in other places, the demand would become much more.

Of course, there were also people who didn't want to travel a long distance for meals and hence required branch restaurants. But for most people, their wish was to increase the business time.

Chengdu City was famous for its advantageous geographical environment, pleasant climate and comfortable living environment. With the rapid development in these two years, more and more people came from other places for vacation. Besides, this city also had a good reputation as the "Capital of Foodies". Apart from the tour, they could also enjoy the delicacies here.

This forum was the gathering place for those senior foodies. Anyone that came to enjoy the foods would basically log in to the forum to check the recommendations here.

Therefore, all Yuan Zhou needed to do now was to observe the updates of the forum to see how the fame of his restaurant was like.

The matters discussed in the forum basically changed rapidly. Having scrolled down the webpage, Yuan Zhou found in surprise that his restaurant was also listed in the discussions.

He tapped open the subject excitedly. It turned out to be a tasting article.

[In view of the recommendations by the previous senior foodies, I have been to Yuan Zhou's restaurant personally. Now let me talk about the pros and cons.]

The beginning aroused Yuan Zhou's interest in reading on. He naturally wouldn't make any progress if he just made a cart behind closed doors. Although he had the system backing him up, he was now taking a fancy to the feeling of cooking delicacies.

[First, I'm poor. So I just ordered a serving of Egg Fried Rice. As the saying goes, Egg Fried Rice is one of the fundamental dishes among Chinese cuisines. If one couldn't even cook this dish well, he might as well quit.]

[The taste and appearance of the Egg Fried Rice were just impeccable. Every rice grain was wrapped in golden yellow egg liquid and was separated from each other. Besides, the egg liquid was distributed evenly. When it was served, I almost forget to eat it, but only concentrate on watching it.]

The person even attached a photo of the Egg Fried Rice to the part.

[There are two strange points. Firstly, Egg Fried Rice is really just Egg Fried Rice, without anything else apart from the egg and rice. Secondly, there is no fragrance at all when it's served. I thought it was originally like that. When I place it into my mouth, however, I

found that it was not true. It's not that there's no fragrance, but it's just that Boss Yuan had wrapped all the fragrance inside the rice grains. Masterstroke!]

While reading the compliments in the article, Yuan Zhou's face was full of smiles. It was always pleasant to be complimented.

[After the pros, I'm now talking about the cons. On behalf of all customers, I want to ask Boss Yuan a question. With such little amount for each dish, do you set the quantity on the basis of girls' food consumption? Let me tell you. This is absolutely gender discrimination.]

[After a serving of Egg Fried Rice worth 188 RMB, I was only half full. What's worse, I don't feel like eating even the same dish cooked by myself anymore since I have been spoiled by Boss Yuan's appetizing dish. I have to warn you solemnly that you'd better come out and take charge for my loss.]

The straightforward and incisive ridicule made Yuan Zhou fairly moved.

"Is the amount too little? But I feel it's just enough. I can eat my fill with two servings." Looking at the plate for carrying the Egg Fried Rice, Yuan Zhou felt quite satisfied.

Luckily, nobody heard that, otherwise he would surely be beaten until his legs were disabled.

Then, he continued reading the content below.

[And I suggest you not go there if you care more about the dining environment. Except for the sergestes wall, there's nothing else in Yuan Zhou's restaurant that could attract people. The geographical circumstance is only average and so is the decoration inside. Most importantly, Boss Yuan doesn't allow people to eat while standing under the condition that the restaurant is so small. If so, why couldn't you put another 2 tables?"]

About this suggestion, Yuan Zhou identified with the person very much. Then he started to negotiate with the system over that.

"System, I'm going to be the landmark restaurant very soon. I don't think 10 seats are appropriate now." Yuan Zhou looked at the space at the door where it was fairly spacious to seat 4 people but the system only arranged two chairs. And the flower rack over there was also unpleasant to look at.

The system displayed, "Host, please endeavor to level up."

"Will you unlock more chairs after I get promoted?" Yuan Zhou directly neglected the system's answer and asked what he wanted to know.

The system displayed, "Host, please work hard to complete the mission."

The dialogue was simply like, "Come on. Let's hurt each other."

"Couldn't you just disclose something to me?" Yuan Zhou asked, not even giving up the slightest hope.

The quantity of the chairs also determined the increase of the consumers. Naturally, Yuan Zhou was concerned about that.

The system had already been used to Yuan Zhou's request as such, thus it just neglected him.

"Alright. You win. I'll go and check the mission." Yuan Zhou picked up the phone helplessly and continued to check the forum.

With such an expression, he was just like Wu Hai who often choked by Yuan Zhou.

[The most most most important thing is that such a booming restaurant unexpectedly does not have a bathroom!!! Having waited so long time in line, don't the customers need to go to the bathroom? Boss Yuan, you really have a strong kidney.]

The bold exclamation symbol and the last ridicule was filled with endless grievances of the reviewer.

"How could a nice restaurant build a bathroom inside it?" While stroking his forehead, Yuan Zhou said with an expression of solemnity.

He would never admit that he didn't think of that at the very beginning. For now, he was less likely to build the bathroom since the restaurant was so crowded. For the pub, it was also the same situation. Luckily, he provided only one pot of liquor to each.

As the reviewer commented reasonably, many people gave "like" below the passage as well as complained something else that Yuan Zhou didn't do well in. As for those things, Yuan Zhou directly neglected, of course.

Preference for words of praise was human's instinct. Yuan Zhou indicated that he was only an ordinary person.

Chapter 255: Is Boss Yuan Nice?

Yuan Zhou carefully checked the evaluations and public praise of his restaurant on the internet that were quite good. As for other small problems such as no bathroom, narrow space and no parking lot, Yuan Zhou indicated that they were not a big deal.

"Just as expected, the reputation is really not bad." Looking at the replies basically saying they wanted or were prepared to come, Yuan Zhou was quite satisfied.

After that, he searched for the gourmet map through the internet. In the updated gourmet map, Yuan Zhou's restaurant was on the list, yet not as conspicuous as those famous restaurants. Even the World Foodie Hotel was listed ahead of him. Both the location and the size outclassed that of his restaurant.

It could be seen that this was the representative cuisines of the district. Having seen the difference, Yuan Zhou became more confident.

What came next was the most important thing, the necessary conditions to complete the side mission.

Yuan Zhou tapped open the online shopping website and started to purchase things. He required very careful distinction and bought only those that were in the same city and could be sent to his hands on the same day. After spending approximately 500 RMB, Yuan Zhou closed the website.

Seeing the forum, Yuan Zhou likewise recalled his friend that had helped him. Then, he found the number and made a call.

"Sun, do you have time tomorrow?" Once the call was put through, Yuan Zhou directly said.

"Hey, you call me so late. Are you going to buy me some liquor?" Sun Ming was having a late-night snack. After Yuan Zhou finished talking, he stopped the chopsticks and said that.

"Yes, my treat. Be my guest," Yuan Zhou said with readiness.

"The moon today is so big. There's definitely something deceitful waiting for me. Tell me directly." Sun Ming instantly became alert.

What a joke. This guy had a nickname of pi formerly. If one asked him to stand treat, he can come up with more reasons than why the pi was 3.1415926 and then asked you why he should stand treat. Sun Ming was really scared of that.

Taking the phone, Yuan Zhou kept silent for a while and then said, "I'm going to develop a new dish and hope you can help to taste it."

The silence of Yuan Zhou naturally wasn't the introspection. Instead, he just felt this guy Sun Ming was too wordy.

"Now that's the way to be friends. I will bring some friends including KFC to you." Sun Ming let out a sigh of relief. He totally

forgot the fact that Yuan Zhou had once treated them together.

Dish tasting usually meant that he had to act as the guinea pig. With the current craftsmanship of Yuan Zhou, however, even the opportunity to be the guinea pig had to be seized by fortune.

"Humm. Come over in the evening tomorrow. Earlier, please. If you come late, you'll have no seats available." Yuan Zhou instructed him carefully.

"Ok, got it. The customer flow of your restaurant is large and there's quite a high difficulty in parking a car there every time. Last time, I even saw several traffic tickets on one single car." On thinking of the traffic tickets flying in the wind, Sun Ming felt ridiculous.

"Humm, bye." Yuan Zhou was definitely specialized in hanging off the phone swiftly. As soon as he made him understood, he would hang off the phone straightforwardly.

"Damn it. This guy always hangs off the phone so quickly." Obvious, Sun Ming still had a few words unspoken, but was then interrupted.

Having done the work, it was likewise the time for the pub to be closed.

While still thinking of that, the sergestes wall was opened and customers came out from inside one after another.

"Boss Yuan, you still here. Why didn't you go upstairs and play games with us?" said Jiang Changxi softly. With a slight flush on her cheeks, Jiang Changxi appeared much prettier.

"Thanks for coming." Yuan Zhou didn't answer her, but just made a gesture of seeing them off.

"Boss Yuan, you are so boring. You aren't even interesting as the younger sister Min Min." With a look of contempt at Yuan Zhou, Jiang Changxi said goodbye to Shen Min with a big smile.

"Tsk-tsk. This lady Jiang likes to flirt with Boss Yuan every time," Fang Heng said with a smile.

"Do visit again next time." Yuan Zhou deftly turned a blind eye to such daily jokes.

"You turn out to be boring, indeed." Fang Meng also felt him uninteresting and then he left.

As a shy girl, Shen Min became shyer to speak when she heard them talking that way. Yuan Zhou, nevertheless, kept a straight face and an expression of solemnity, looking quite aloof.

Anyhow, the remaining drinkers didn't tease Yuan Zhou about his hobby and just left orderly.

Once they were gone, Shen Min returned to the second floor quickly and started to do the cleaning. Yuan Zhou likewise went upstairs directly with relief. For the petty things of closing the door, Shen Min had been doing quite well in the past half a month.

However, Yuan Zhou didn't hear the sound of closing the door this time after quite a while. He felt a little strange and thus opened the window of his room. As expected, he saw Shen Ming come downstairs from the platform of the pub and close the door hurriedly. Only after she shut the door carefully did she rush to the bus stop with 100-meter sprint speed.

However, the last bus still passed by Shen Min directly and didn't even intend to stop. Shen Min stood at the bus stop and became dumbfounded by that. With Yuan Zhou's eyesight, he naturally took all this in.

Yuan Zhou stood at the window silently. The moon outside was extremely large, but the passers-by were nevertheless quite few. Shen Min was just standing alone at the bus stop.

She took the phone and began to make calls.

"Jia Jia, where are you?" The first person Shen Min called was Zhou Jia.

"I'm still in the evening college. There are ten minutes left before the class is over." From the other end of the phone was a low voice. Zhou Jia seemed to answer the phone privately.

"What's wrong?" Not hearing Shen Min speak, Zhou Jia asked with concerns.

"Nothing special. You continue with the class." Shen Min answered with embarrassment.

Then, Zhou Jia hung off the phone.

Shen Min flipped the contacts, not knowing whom to call. She didn't have such a good relationship with her roommates as to request for a lift. Speaking of taking a cab, she had always brought no more than 10 RMB with her. Yet, it cost at least 20 RMB to take a cab from the bus stop to the college.

While flipping the contacts in silence, Shen Min felt a little helpless.

All was quiet at dead of night in summer, with only some bothering chirp of small worms of "Zhi Zhi". Anyway, Shen Min felt depressed currently. The empty street at midnight made people feel afraid, let alone a young girl as Shen Min.

At that time, two beams of light shined to her suddenly. It was a green cab pulling over straight toward the bus stop. Shen Min was so fearful that she took a step back.

"Zi", the cab parked steadily. The driver was a middle-aged man. Shen Min grasped her bag nervously.

"Min Min, come on. Let me take you back." The car door was suddenly opened. The person who got off the cab was surprisingly Jiang Changxi who had already left. As soon as she got off the car, she greeted Shen Min warmly.

"Sister Jiang, it's you." Shen Min then got relaxed and said happily.

"Yes, who else could it be? Come on, it's too late. Let me send you back to your college." Standing at the car door, Jiang Changxi revealed a big smile on her face.

"Sorry to bother you." Shen Min's face went pink. Looking at the surrounding darkness, she didn't refuse anymore and just agreed obediently with a nod.

Having got in the cab quickly, Shen Min got seated in the back seat next to Jiang Changxi and then became relieved.

"Master Bai, take us to the college town." Jiang Changxi nodded the head to Shen Min and then said to Master Bai.

"Ok." Master Bai answered. Then, the car moved forward.

"Sorry to bother you, Sister Jiang. I will give the fare to you next time." Having thought for an instant, Shen Min said obediently.

"Don't be so courteous with those 'bothering' and 'thank you'. You should say thanks to your boss." Leaning back against the

backrest, Jiang Changxi said lightly.

"My boss?" Asked Shen Min subconsciously. She didn't understand immediately.

However, Jiang Changxi no longer replied her, but just muttered in a low voice, "Never have I thought this guy would be a surprisingly kind-hearted man."

After that, she revealed a smile on the face. She had prepared to leave after drinking the liquor when Yuan Zhou suddenly called her, telling her that the last bus had left and Shen Min wasn't safe to go home alone. He asked her to help Shen Min.

Then Jiang Changxi agreed. Nevertheless, she wouldn't tell Shen Min about that and publicize for his reputation. Therefore, she acted as if she hadn't heard Shen Min.

Seated beside her, Shen Min didn't ask again when she saw Jiang Changxi not answer her and rest there. Therefore, she just waited to arrive at the college quietly.

Chapter 256: Art of Speech

The cab was running steadily all along and soon it arrived at the entrance to the college town.

"Let me accompany you inside. Come on, Min Min," Jiang Changxi got off the cab first and said with a smile.

"No need. Thanks, Sister Jiang. There are security guards inside. Thank you, Sister Jiang." Shen Min got off the cab after Jiang Changxi and answered earnestly.

"Ok. I'll watch you go inside." Jiang Changxi wasn't a wordy person. She directly waved her hand to the girl.

"Thank you so much, Sister Jiang." Shen Min thanked her gratefully and then ran into the college town quickly.

"This cute girl." Jiang Changxi shook her head smilingly. She only went back into the cab after she saw Shen Min enter the entrance safely.

"Miss Jiang is such a nice person," Master Bai said with a smile.

"It's not me. I still have to report to others." Jiang Changxi took the phone and shook it while ridiculing herself with a smile.

"Even so, you are still a nice person. Of course, so is that Boss

Yuan." Master Bai awarded Yuan Zhou with a Nice Guy Card delightedly.

Naturally, Yuan Zhou himself didn't want to get the Nice Guy Card. If he got too many Nice Guy Cards, he'd probably find it difficult to look for a girlfriend.

The whole event happened back in Yuan Zhou's restaurant as follows. Jiang Changxi had barely finished drinking and hadn't gone far away in the cab when her phone rang at the side.

When she found it was a strange number, Jiang Changxi knitted her brows. It was an unknown number calling her late at night. After a short moment of hesitation, she answered the phone at last.

"Hello," said Jiang Changxi indifferently and concisely, without any hint of the coquettish manner when flirting with Yuan Zhou in normal times.

While taking the phone at the other end, Yuan Zhou looked at the screen and again at the name card in his hand. Only after the confirmation did he speak, "This is Yuan Zhou. Miss Jiang, I hope you could do me a favor."

Yuan Zhou had always been straightforward in asking for others' help, although his request was always implicit. For the past few months, Yuan Zhou's assets and craftsmanship had both increased by a lot, which was followed by an increase in confidence. The confidence came from nothing but his own assets, knowledge or

family.

The way Yuan Zhou talked right now, however, was quite courteous.

"Dear me! Boss Yuan, it's surprisingly you. So what do you want by calling me so late?" Jiang Changxi raised her eyebrows in surprise and instantly the usually soft and coquettish manner in her tone resumed.

"Could I trouble you to come back to the bus stop outside the restaurant and pick one person?" Yuan Zhou felt comfortable only when he heard the familiar voice.

"To pick someone up? Is it your young lover?" Jiang Changxi signaled Master Bai to head back, but still teased at Yuan Zhou with words.

"No, it isn't. It's Shen Min. Please send her back to the college town." While talking with Jiang Changxi, Yuan Zhou knitted his brows tightly all along, fearing that she might say something that he couldn't answer.

What one feared usually came true, just as expected.

The next utterance of Jiang Changxi followed, "No problem. But, how will you reward me, Boss Yuan?"

"What's your idea?" Yuan Zhou took the phone and looked at

Shen Min at the bus stop with a frown.

"What do you say if I invite you to my home and try the new bed I have bought to see if it's comfortable?" The ending tone was suggestive, but on her face was a manner of glee.

"Never. Change another one." Yuan Zhou raised his brows and refused flatly.

"Haw-haw. Then you tell this elder sister what kind of girl you like most. I can endeavor toward that standard." On the face of Jiang Changxi was a naughty expression. Even Master Bai caught sight of the conspicuous teasing from her while driving.

"No. Please hurry up." Looking at Shen Min who almost cried, Yuan Zhou urged her.

"Then the last condition. You must look into my eyes when I talk to you next time." After Jiang Changxi said that, Yuan Zhou saw the familiar cab.

"Ok. Sorry to bother you." Yuan Zhou agreed immediately.

"Wow, you agreed? Boss Yuan, you are really a responsible boss and a warm-hearted man." Jiang Changxi knew that Yuan Zhou didn't like such kinds of teasing, therefore he ignored her every time.

But now, Yuan Zhou surprisingly agreed to the joking request. It

could be seen that he was a really gentle man inwardly.

Seeing that, Jiang Changxi became more desirous to flirt with him.

As for Yuan Zhou, he was relieved when he saw Shen Min picked up by Jiang Changxi. Then, he drew the curtain and went to the bathroom to wash up.

When he came back again, there were a missed call and message.

He checked them and found they were all from Jiang Changxi.

The anterior part of the message was simple, saying Shen Min had arrived at the college town while the latter part reminded Yuan Zhou of his promise, with a smiling face.

"Sigh. This woman." Yuan Zhou shook his head and can't help laughing.

Even if he didn't like getting along with others and thus was a little autistic, he was nevertheless not foolish. He could recognize that Jiang Changxi just said that for fun. She was not actually interested in him.

However, these cunning people always wanted to cheat for his money. Yuan Zhou had originally thought Jiang Changxi would ask for more of the liquor.

"Thank you." Replied Yuan Zhou, who subsequently turned off the phone after thinking for a while. Only then did he lay down to sleep securely.

On the next morning, the customers suddenly found in surprise that Yuan Zhou spoke more than usual today.

"Morning. Do you think our restaurant is crowded?" Yuan Zhou was quite serious while asking that as if he had been collecting some information.

Those who came for breakfast were basically all regular customers. As soon as they saw Yuan Zhou's expression plus his question, they all felt nervous, "Does Boss Yuan intend to enlarge the restaurant? Then he will probably close the restaurant for quite a few days."

On thinking of that, the customers immediately became alert.

"I feel the restaurant is fairly good. It's true, Boss Yuan," said a customer quite sincerely.

"Thank you for your compliments." Yuan Zhou remained as usual with his expression unchanged. But in the heart, he nevertheless murmured, "This guy was absolutely lying just now. Did I ask in an inconspicuous way?"

"You are welcome, really. Get me one serving of Clear Broth

Noodle Soup, please." Seeing Yuan Zhou not speak of anything else, the customers then got seated and ordered their dishes.

"Hold on." Yuan Zhou nodded and prepared to change a target.

"May I ask if you feel the restaurant is too small?" Yuan Zhou brought out the word "small" directly this time. He had taken it for granted to get the anticipated answer so that he could collect one request.

As a sophisticated regular customer, however, this person suddenly understood Yuan Zhou's reason. Just like the previous customer who said no problem repeatedly, he directly said that there was no need for it to be expanded at all.

He must be joking. If he implemented the expansion, how long would they wait until they could eat the dishes again?

Although they didn't come to eat every day, it was pleasant to see it just open.

For the next several customers, Yuan Zhou tried again but, without any exception, failed. Frankly speaking, Yuan Zhou really had a striking persistence. At noon, a customer brought out the request finally.

Although the person almost choked to death.

"The restaurant is small, isn't it?" With his sharp eyes and ears,

Yuan Zhou heard the man complain a little bit and then went up to answer him.

"Yeah, it is. Boss, why couldn't you find a larger place?" It was a young man. On hearing Yuan Zhou's words, he said immediately.

"It definitely won't work to enlarge the restaurant. But a branch restaurant....." At that time, Yuan Zhou recalled the conclusion of the book that he read in the morning and intentionally kept half unspoken.

"Yeah, yeah, right. If it can't be enlarged, you might as well open a branch restaurant," The young man continued saying that along with Yuan Zhou's words.

"It's likewise impossible to open branch restaurants." Only then did Yuan Zhou finish his words unhurriedly.

"Damn it. Boss Yuan, you are toying with me, aren't you?" The young man was rather speechless.

"No. I'm just investigating the customers' satisfaction," said Yuan Zhou primly with an inconspicuous smile.

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Chapter 257: Smoked Fish Silver Thread Noodles

Yuan Zhou was originally a person who smiled very little. Ever since he opened the restaurant, he had practiced a lot on how to appear aloof in the mirror in order to match with his own title of master chef.

After all, he had bought and read such books as *How to Become a Popular Man* or *Self-Cultivation of A Popular Man*, etc. Such book were all put in the wardrobes. Every time Yuan Zhou remembered them, he would take them out and read some pages.

As a result, Yuan Zhou had studied quite a lot on how to keep facial paralysis while smiling.

Of course, he read such books as *Oral Skills* and *How to Become a Good Mixer* this morning, naturally in order to finish the side mission.

Each had his strong point and meanwhile the shortcoming. Yuan Zhou was clear that he wasn't good at communicating with others. It could help to get his speaking to become more attractive to read more of such books. With an earnest look, Yuan Zhou nodded the head in self-affirmation.

Hearing Yuan Zhou's words right in front, the customer felt their balls aching, "Boss Yuan, if you don't open the branch restaurant, then why are you mentioning that?" said the young man with a speechless manner.

"Humm. I just want to tell you the infeasibility of opening branch restaurants and then I can refuse you explicitly," said Yuan Zhou while looking at the young man earnestly with his bright eyes.

"Ho Ho. I'm convinced now." The young man covered his stomach, appearing to be aching due to the hunger.

Whether the young man felt aching or not, Yuan Zhou nevertheless believed so, therefore he asked quite considerately, "Please order your dishes, first."

"Yes. I need food to comfort my wounded heart." Immediately, the young man echoed and then began to order the dishes, "Egg Fried Rice Set, Jinling Grass and Translucent Beef Slices."

While feeling a heartache, the young man ordered the dishes. Of course, there was a good reason for him to do so. He had originally intended to travel here to have a good time, but he didn't manage to have too much fun since he spent most of the time on waiting in line for meals in Yuan Zhou's restaurant. Now that he would go back home soon, the remaining travelling expenses were naturally all spent on the delicacies to comfort his heart.

"Sir, we have a new dish. Do you want to taste it?" Ever since the dish of royal jelly tremella was served last time, Zhou Jia paid special attention to the price list in the restaurant. Now the new dish was then served.

Of course, she also suggested Yuan Zhou that they should at least

publicize the new dish or gave it a bold contrast to other dishes. After all, it was an event of great significance to get a new dish served in such a popular restaurant as Yuan Zhou's.

With Yuan Zhou's temperament, however, he believed it was fun to look for delicious dishes, thus Zhou Jia could only remind the customers.

"A new dish? What is it?" The young man said curiously.

"The Smoked Fish Silver Thread Noodles is available at this period of the day. Do you want it?" asked Zhou Jia earnestly.

"How much is it?" The young man asked warily.

"It's 368 RMB for each bowl of the noodles. Quite appetizing," said Zhou Jia smilingly.

"This price is anyhow acceptable to me." Having considered the thickness of his wallet, the young man let out a sigh of relief and agreed with a nod. He was awfully satisfied in the heart with the fact that he had the luck to eat a new dish even before he left.

"Alright. Wait a moment. It's a total of 1164 RMB. You can either make a bank transfer or pay cash. The bank account for bank transfer is right in front of you." Zhou Jia reminded carefully.

"Ok." The young man transferred the money to the account with readiness. When he saw the remaining 500 RMB in his account,

however, he became slightly depressed.

Fortunately, he became excited again on thinking of the delicacies to be served in no time. "Anyhow, I am now also a rich guy who can afford a meal of 1000 RMB. I'm so proud." The young man smiled with a quite satisfied expression.

Just in a little while, the Smoked Fish Silver Thread Noodles was first served. The delicate flavor of the noodles emphasized on the factors of noodle, broth, and heat, of which the heat had particular functions.

The noodles could only reach the best of the taste under the condition that the bowl, noodles, broth and toppings were all hot. Therefore, Yuan Zhou quickly cut the scalding smoked fish into several parts during the short period of boiling the noodles. Within the dozens of seconds, the extremely thin and bright silver thread noodles happened to float. He scooped up all the noodles at a time into a bowl that was being steamed by the broth and then poured the hot broth into the bowl. In the end, the dish was finally ready.

"Such a nice flavor! Is this the smoked fish?" The young man couldn't wait to go up and smell it. Immediately, he said with an intoxicated tone.

"Yes. The noodles are especially tasty when it's hot. You just try," Zhou Jia said that when she walked only a step away from him.

"Ok. I'm going to savor the smoked fish now." The young man was from the region of Zhejiang or Jiangsu and he had definitely

eaten plenty of smoked fish before.

Normally, there would be a smoky taste as soon as the ordinary smoked fish entered the mouth. What's weird was that he always found the taste unacceptable and felt it to be an odd flavor. Provided that the wood wasn't used, he would find it acceptable to remove the feather with the gas cooker.

Luckily, many dishes of smoked fish in the modern society only had the name rather than genuinely being smoked with wood.

Of course, the young man was quite careful while eating it. He only put it in his mouth after he smelled carefully the brownish red and glossy smoked fish between his chopsticks and found there wasn't any taste of the wood.

The taste of the smoked fish was quite familiar to the young man, but the piece in his mouth was nevertheless totally unacquainted. Theoretically, the smoked fish would have no moisture after being fumigated and inevitably taste dry and astringent. Besides, it wasn't so fine and smooth as those processed in other ways. In spite of that, what attracted people was its chewiness, so people who had a preference for it still liked eating it.

The moment the fish entered the mouth, it was then broke into small pieces with a slight touch. The exquisite texture and plenty of soup made the young man incomparably astonished instantly.

Rolled in his mouth was the fragrant, sweet, crisp and tender texture with a slightly numbing taste stimulating his taste buds.

Besides, the thick sauce flavor and bland freshness that blended together brought about an incredibly wonderful taste.

Even when there were only the fish bones left, he was reluctant to drop it and thus continued chewing it for a little while. It seemed that he prepared to chew some more taste out of it.

To his surprise, the fish bones made a sound of "Ka Cha Ka Cha" in his mouth like the gristle while he was chewing.

Moreover, the fish bones were extremely crisp and fragrant, totally unlike usual bones. It was just like the chicken feet braised with thick oil and red soy sauce, which combined both the delicious texture and freshness of the fish.

The young man's appetite was greatly stimulated by that. He ate up all the three pieces of smoked fish without break and left only the silver white and bright noodles.

"If only I can eat such smoked fish every day. It's absolutely delicious." The young man looked at the inside of the bowl where the smoked fish had been placed, being reluctant to look away.

Lucky that he soon remembered the noodles had to be eaten hot, therefore he took the chopsticks and began to eat it with a sound of "Slurp Slurp".

"Dear me! Is there anything that Boss Yuan couldn't cook? Surprisingly, he can cook such extremely thin noodles to be so

appetizing and chewy, as well," with a full mouth of noodles, the young man said with a lisp.

If the flavorings, including oil, salt, soy sauce and vinegar, were added to the broth, only the broth would be flavored and not the noodles. It was not eating noodles, but actually drinking the broth.

However, the Silver Thread Noodles cooked by Yuan Zhou made it happen. While the noodles had five tastes, the broth was nevertheless clear and bright.

Along with the sound of "Slurp Slurp", more than half of the smooth and chewy noodles were eaten by the young man unreservedly.

The reason why the dish was called Silver Thread Noodles was because of the soft and smooth texture and the visual effect of being white as silver and thin as threads.

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Chapter 258: Thin-Skinned Dumplings

The volume of the Smoked Fish Silver Thread Noodles was nearly the same as that of the Clear Broth Noodle Soup, both equaling a bowl of 100 grams of noodles. For the young, the amount was really not much.

Soon the young man ate up the noodles, but was just reluctant to open the mouth so that the fine, smooth and chewy texture of the noodles could still linger in his mouth.

Not until the young man felt that all the fragrance in his mouth was swallowed did he speak, "Boss Yuan, why does your smoked fish have a fresh and sweet texture instead of the smoky taste?"

"Yeah, right. I also want to know that." A middle-aged man at the side was also quite curious.

"Get it smoked twice," said Yuan Zhou earnestly.

"Pardon? Wouldn't it have more smoky taste after being smoked twice?" The young man showed a manner of disbelief.

"You simply couldn't be more foolish. Obviously, the fish was cold smoked with litchee peel at the second time." Lee Yanyi happened to gulp down the last mouthful of broth. He took a glance at him and said seriously.

"Litchee peel? Cold smoke? What's that?" The customers

basically had no idea of that.

"Humph. Get me a serving of Honey Tremella." Lee Yanyi nevertheless didn't answer them anymore and just proceeded to order the dish.

"Sorry, sir. This dish is temporarily unavailable," said Zhou Jia with an apologetic expression.

"What does that mean? Even the newly developed dish is unavailable?" Lee Yanyi revealed a discontented expression.

"Yes. One of the major ingredients is royal jelly. We only use the fresh ones and then Boss Yuan will cook it personally. So it's fairly rare." The working attitude of Zhou Jia was excellent. She explained very carefully to him.

This explanation was far better than Yuan Zhou's saying that it depended on the mood of the bees. At least, Lee Yanyi didn't want to beat somebody on hearing that. If Zhou Jia used the explanation of Yuan Zhou, she would definitely be complained by the old man repeatedly.

"Could the stuff of royal jelly be used to make dishes?" Lee Yanyi knitted his brows.

"Yes, sure. The taste is extremely refreshing and crisp as well as unique." Zhou Jia was absolutely confident with Yuan Zhou's craftsmanship right now.

"It's indeed unique." Lee Yanyi grunted. Since he was unable to eat that, there was no need to stay here anymore. Therefore, he turned around and left in anger.

"Apart from his bad temper, this old man doesn't even explain to others," the young man muttered to himself.

It wasn't appropriate to ask Yuan Zhou now. After all, he was too busy during the business time.

It was not an easy work to prepare the smoked fish. To Yuan Zhou, however, it was no more than a matter of time and skills.

Taking the selection of fishes for example, Yuan Zhou felt the Crucian was better to make the smoked fish, as the Crucian from Dragon Pond area of Liuhe district of Nanjing were different from others. The bigger it was, the more tender the flesh was. Besides, the fish bones were far lesser.

At that time, Yuan Zhou asked the system directly what fish it would provide.

"System, is there any option of the fish provided by you?" Looking at the ingredients of the Smoked Fish Silver Thread Noodles, Yuan Zhou couldn't help uttering and asking.

The system displayed, "The fish is optional."

This time, the system answered point-blank, but it didn't give any selection range. By chance, Yuan Zhou happened to know the place of Dragon Pond area of Liuhe district, therefore he straightforwardly ordered the dish from this place.

The system displayed, "The ingredients have been provided. Host, you can use them by yourself."

However, Yuan Zhou suddenly became curious at that time.

"System, are the Crucians provided by you the descendants of a dragon?" Yuan Zhou had some knowledge of the legend of Dragon Pond in Liuhe district.

The system didn't display anything more until Yuan Zhou prepared to cook the dishes after waiting for quite a while in vain.

"As the folk legend says, the child bride married the black dragon. They lived at ease in the dragon pond and gave birth to lots of descendants. And the big Crucians in the dragon pond were exactly those descendants." The four characters of 'Folk Legend' were made extraordinarily large by the system for fear that Yuan Zhou couldn't see them clearly.

"Every Crucian in the dragon pond weighs more than 1 kilogram. It has been an article of tribute to the emperors in every dynasty. It's famous worldwide for its small head but plump body, fine and smooth flesh, delicate and appetizing taste."

"The superior Crucian is characterized by its freshness. As it is soil-natured, it likes living in the mud. The Crucian living in the turbid water is especially plump and delicious with the meat slightly crisp. In winter, it is fat and has a lot of fish roe."

After the lengthy introductions by the system, Yuan Zhou caught another Crucian from the deep pool where the prawns were raised. It was flat with the white color.

"Only the flesh of this fish could be made loose and tender." Yuan Zhou heaved a sigh while catching the fish and then started to dissect and wash it.

Before smoking, the fish was first pickled for a night with Qiu You, soft-fried with vegetable oil and then covered with the sesame oil for better smoking when it was slightly cooled down. While smoking, Yuan Zhou scattered some fennel, chopped ginger and wild pepper over the fish.

After it was washed again to remove the dirt and then dried, it would be fried again and then braised with the yellow rice wine and sweet sauce. When the redundant sauce was removed, it would be smoked again with the litchee peel.

Only in that way could the smoked fish have the fresh and sweet texture as well as the soft and tender taste sensation. Naturally, there was none of the smoky taste.

As for the silver thread noodles, Yuan Zhou selected the preparation method of Eight Treasure Noodles.

The preparation method had likewise been passed down from a former royal chef, therefore the noodles cooked by Yuan Zhou required much work and time.

The fragrance and freshness of all the eight treasures were preserved, gathered and then mixed into the noodles. Regarding how to make the noodles, Yuan Zhou naturally selected the noodle-making craftsmanship of Lanzhou people, who were well-known nationwide for their distinctive Hand-Pulled Noodle Soup. Then, he blended the eight treasures into the flour and kneaded them into the dough with the egg white.

Although it took a long time, the dough nevertheless could be picked with the fingertips and made into thin strip randomly after being kneaded. Even if it was 10 feet long, it didn't break.

That made the chewy texture of the silver thread noodles. However, all these details of making noodles or smoking the fish weren't worth telling others. The young man nevertheless started to savor the next dish.

Because of the new dish, the business time at noon was rather lively. Of course, Zhou Jia also felt much fatigue.

In the afternoon, Sun Ming arrived at Yuan Zhou's restaurant early along with others.

"Sun, are you going to treat us or what today?" The tall and slim man with his nickname KFC said smilingly while holding Sun

Ming's shoulders.

"No, it's not me. I'd say they just don't have the good luck. It's Compass who is treating us today," Sun Ming said with a smiling face.

"I still can't believe it. That guy is so slow and unwilling when he offers the meals for free. What does he suddenly stand treat for?" KFC revealed a suspicious expression.

"Since he has told me to savor the new dish, what suspicion do you have?" Sun Ming straightforwardly entered the restaurant while dragging KFC.

"Hi, take your seats, please." Yuan Zhou walked out of the kitchen and greeted them when he saw them come in.

"Compass, what's your new dish?" As soon as Sun Ming arrived, he got straight to the point. It was KFC who appeared more implicit. He just sat at the side and listened to them attentively.

"Thin Skinned Dumplings as a kind of snack," Yuan Zhou also said concisely and comprehensively.

"Sounds nice. But will you lengthen the business time?" Sun Ming asked curiously.

"No, I won't."

The point-blank answer made Sun Ming relieved. They were brothers and Sun Ming also ran his own business, therefore he knew how tired it was to run a store on his own, let alone a booming business such as Yuan Zhou's restaurant. It meant he was more tired.

"Speaking of that, I haven't been here for a long time. There have been so many new dishes. Wait, what's the price of this dish?" Sun Ming stood up and began to check the price list behind him.

"Welfare price." Said Yuan Zhou lightly.

"I would have been here every day if I know there's such a good price," KFC and Sun Ming said at the same time.

"Yeah, right. 1 RMB, wow. Come on, get one serving for each of us," Sun Ming said generously, as if he were a rich guy.

Yuan Zhou, "..."

Chapter 259: Eight Unique Qinhuai Snacks

"Good stuff of only 1 RMB per serving naturally should be provided to each of us." Sun Ming gave the final word.

"Temporarily there are insufficient ingredients. Next time, ok?" While speaking, Yuan Zhou began to prepare to make the dumplings.

"You stinker, why didn't you keep the good stuff for us to savor?" said Sun Ming discontentedly.

"Because it's too good, it was sold out." Wearing the face mask, Yuan Zhou was adding water to the pot.

"Honey Tremella is nothing special. It's definitely the way you cook it that makes it delicious," KFC muttered.

"It's royal jelly," with his sharp ears, Yuan Zhou answered him directly.

"Pardon? Do you know you are recklessly wasting the God's good gift to cook dishes with royal jelly? It's totally a waste. You might as well give it to me to drink so that I can keep fit," Sun Ming stood up in surprise and said loudly.

"Sun, I'm not deaf," said Yuan Zhou lightly.

"I'd say you are indeed deaf. You are selling such a superior dish at 1 RMB. Dear me, my liver is aching." Sun Ming indicated that his balls ached. The royal jelly had a good market, but no one would like to sell it, not to mention that there were a lot of fake ones on the market.

As far as he knew about his brother, he would never sell the fake ones. How could one expect an honest person to resort to deceit? Therefore, the royal jelly definitely wouldn't be fake.

"He's not selling your stuff. Why do you love money more than Compass?" KFC said in surprise.

"Humph. I feel heartache in place of him," Sun Ming pointed at Yuan Zhou and said deservedly.

"Come on, man. I think you feel heartache because you didn't manage to eat the cheap dish of 1 RMB," KFC didn't believe in him at all, hence said unreservedly.

"I think so, too." Yuan Zhou also nodded the head at the side, pretending to be serious.

"You get down to knead the dough. Don't you see we are still waiting to eat?" Sun Ming directly waved his hands and then said to KFC.

"You are absolutely foolish. Apart from the tremella, you even sell the royal jelly at such a low price of 1 RMB."

"Compass has said this is welfare price. I feel it's really not a bad idea. Just think, he's doing the high-end business. Of course, he has good reason to serve a superior welfare." KFC was a salesperson and was quite clear about these strategies.

However, Yuan Zhou didn't think that much. He just felt that rarely did he have an opportunity to set the price, why couldn't he be capricious for just once? So after he got the number 1 by shaking the phone, he set the price at 1 RMB. It was way justifiable.

Hearing that, Sun Ming also felt Yuan Zhou's words somewhat made sense and thus said straightforwardly, "You are right. Ok, forget it. I will just wait to eat."

Then the two of them got seated again. As soon as they did that, they became curious about what Yuan Zhou was doing.

"Are you kneading the dough to make dumplings?" asked Sun Ming curiously. He was unable to stay idle for even one moment.

"Yes. It's one of the Eight Unique Qinhuai Snacks." Yuan Zhou spoke a few more words.

"Aren't Eight Unique Qinhuai Snacks the southern snack? It's not sweet, is it? If it's sweet, I'd drop it." Sun Ming was a person who never ate sweet food.

"He has told us it's dumplings. How could the dumplings be

sweet?" KFC gave a glance of contempt at Sun Ming.

"How can it not be? People there are said to put sugar in whatever they cook." Thinking of the scene in his mind, Sun Ming felt a toothache.

"No, it's not sweet," said Yuan Zhou earnestly.

"That'll be great," Sun Ming got relieved and said mercifully.

"But I heard from you last time that the Duck Oil Sesame Seed Cake was also one of the Eight Unique. Why is there another one again?" KFC finally asked an ordinary question.

"Every unique stands for two dishes. These are the last two. Apart from the dumpling, there's another sweet snack," Yuan Zhou said lightly while wielding the dough ably and quickly.

"Which one is sweet?" asked KFC curiously. He had no special dislike for either sweet food or salty food.

"Sweet Osmanthus Sandwiched [Yuanxiao](#)." Yuan Zhou reported the name and then asked after a pause, "Do you want to eat it?"

"Ok, sure. Get one serving for me, please." KFC didn't behave reservedly at all and immediately agreed.

"I don't want it." Sun Ming refused hurriedly before Yuan Zhou

turned the head toward him.

"You are not counted in." After Sun Ming finished speaking that, Yuan Zhou answered.

"Eh...." Sun Ming was quite helpless with the embarrassing way Yuan Zhou talked.

"Luckily this guy was always working in the logistics department of the previous hotel. Otherwise, he definitely wouldn't have got employed. Now that he runs his own restaurant and has top-notch craftsmanship, he needn't worry about the business. If not so, he probably would have starved." Sun Ming, who seldom muttered in the heart, thought bitterly.

The restaurant quieted down soon. Yuan Zhou was making the dough seriously while Sun Ming and KFC were earnestly watching Yuan Zhou kneading the dough like the floating clouds and flowing water.

Seeing the two of them have no questions temporarily, Yuan Zhou became curious about the water in the flour. After all, the water looked quite different. Although it appeared to be ice-cold, it nevertheless felt slightly warm and was quite suitable for dough mixing.

"System, what advantages does the water have?" Yuan Zhou asked with curiosity.

Such questions of Yuan Zhou would usually be responded by the system with an answer.

The system displayed, "It's the Jinghua Water taken from a well of flourishing population in Qiannian Village. The more flourishing the population is, the more luscious the well water is. The quintessence of the well water rises after being retained for a night. At the first ray of the morning sun, the very first barrel of the water will be taken. It is moisturizing and luscious. If the water is used to wipe the face, it could likewise moisturize the complexion."

"Tsk-tsk. It surprisingly has the effect of improving one's looks." Without a trace, Yuan Zhou stared at the water in the big transparent pot and appeared quite interested.

However, the system displayed words again before he tried the effect of the water.

The system displayed, "Jinghua Water kept overnight can't be used randomly for washing hands and face. Otherwise, the well water couldn't be drawn anymore. Nor could it be used for drinking.

"Alright. It's really a delicate thing." Yuan Zhou felt rather helpless.

Nevertheless, methods were always figured out by people. Just like right now, Yuan Zhou was planning to provide the snack every morning so that he can take some of the water for washing up.

Although he was way handsome, his pretty face likewise required exquisite skin care.

Wiping the face was not an option for him. After all, it was a waste of resource not to use it as much as possible since it was provided by the system. With such a thought in mind, Yuan Zhou directly made the decision.

In just a little while, the dumplings were steamed well. It was thin-skinned dumplings, but was actually steamed.

As Yuan Zhou added some mung bean flour inside, the skin of the well-steamed dumplings became translucent. Thus, even the beautiful filling inside could nearly be seen.

"Wow, it's so fragrant and is probably comparable with the soup dumplings," Sun Ming said impatiently.

"It's indeed aromatic. But what flavorings should be eaten along with the steamed dumplings?" KFC ate boiled dumplings more, or else, the dumplings with chili oil, the specialty of Chengdu City.

"I don't care what to eat with. But I must eat one right now." Sun Ming couldn't wait to receive the plate from Yuan Zhou. He immediately took the chopsticks and began to eat it.

"You can eat them along with vinegar." Yuan Zhou pointed to the plate of vinegar in the tray.

"There's no chilli, but still it's good." KFC ate the dumplings in a more decent manner.

After all, he had never been to Yuan Zhou's restaurant before, but just eaten the Egg Fried Rice cooked by Yuan Zhou once. As the taste of the dish truly couldn't reach full score due to the inferior ingredients, he could yet control himself. Contrarily, Sun Ming had already immersed himself in the delicacy of the Thin-Skinned Dumplings.

The vinegar used by Yuan Zhou this time was another different one. It was rice vinegar, of which the fragrance and sour were taken.

"I have heard about your craftsmanship for a long time. Now that I get the fortune to eat it for free, I'd have to savor it carefully," said KFC smilingly.

"You are welcome. Please," Yuan Zhou said with a smile on his face.

"Then I'll not stand on ceremony." While speaking, KFC took the chopsticks and also began to eat.

...

Yuanxiao is the round sweet dumplings made of glutinous rice flour with various fillings inside (for the Lantern Festival in China).

Chapter 260: Sweet Osmanthus Sandwiched Yuanxiao

KFC was eating the dumplings quite carefully. There was a small plate of vinegar for everyone. Habitually, he bit an opening in the dumpling and directly dipped the fillings inside in the vinegar. It was tastier to eat that way.

However, KFC had never expected the dumpling was surprisingly like a hidden weapon. It seemed not to have gravy at all in the seemingly perfectly-round and well-stacked dumpling which the beautiful fillings inside could be clearly seen.

However, KFC suddenly inhaled continuously with a sound of "Si Si" while still managing to eat it.

It was only then that the heat came out of the dumplings. Along with it was the appetizing and fresh gravy. He could obviously see the oil droplets rolling inside. Meanwhile, the fragrance also stimulated his taste buds following the heat.

The skin of the dumplings or wonton was usually free from any taste. But KFC found the skin of Yuan Zhou's dumplings not only had a taste, but also tasted chewy.

"Ba Ji, Ba Ji", along with chewing, the chewy and salty dumpling skin as well as the saline gravy with a hint of sweetness that he had just sipped into his mouth were instantly blended together and formed a wonderful taste.

KFC only had time to look at the dumplings after he hurriedly finished gulping down the gravy. After being sucked, the formerly white and plump dumplings had the fillings wrapped tightly by the skin .

"Now the gravy is gone." KFC appeared rather complacent about his way of eating without leaking any drops of gravy just now.

Then he dipped the dumpling into the vinegar lightly. While picking the dumpling with the brown chopsticks, he rotated his wrist and dipped lightly in the vinegar with the part where he bit an opening.

"As expected, there is no more gravy." With a complacent smile, KFC put the remaining dumpling into his mouth unhurriedly.

"Ouch. Si. It's soooooo hot." KFC emphasized on the word of "hot" heavily with a lisp.

It was truly scalding. After a full mouthful of the gravy was drunk, there was supposedly no more gravy in the dumpling, thus letting the skin tightly wrap the fillings. When KFC put the entire remaining dumpling into his mouth; however, the situation was not like imagined.

Having bitten through the dumpling, the gravy contained in the fillings then burst out. With the thin and chewy dumpling skin and the abundant gravy as well as the salty texture with a hint of sweetness, the taste was extremely fresh and tasty. The ultimate

combination of meat and wheat.

Even if it was so hot, KFC was reluctant to open his mouth. He had only to try his best to make his mouth big and roll the stuff in his mouth. Consequently, his mouth was now full of the fresh and delicious taste of the thin-skinned dumplings. It was scalding, but he still didn't want to drop it.

On the face of KFC revealed a hesitant expression. Luckily the temperature gradually went down and the dumpling was suitable for being swallowed. KFC chewed it carefully and then gulped down.

"It's way too delicate and also too scalding." KFC looked at the dumplings contentedly.

"The dishes we ate last time truly could not represent your genuine craftsmanship," thinking of the words of Sun Ming, KFC sighed and said.

"Humm, Humm." Sun Ming was still eating happily at the side. He only chimed in with a nod.

It appeared that he couldn't speak at all with the full mouthful of the delicious dumplings.

"Because the ingredients are quite different. But I had indeed used all my skills last time." Yuan Zhou was rather straightforward to his brothers.

His craftsmanship at that time was not as good as right now. Despite the same ingredients, his craftsmanship had improved by two levels thus, of course, the dishes tasted better than before.

"I know, I know," seeing Yuan Zhou speak so earnestly, Sun Ming answered vaguely with a full mouthful of the food.

When Yuan Zhou found the two persons were satisfied with the dumplings, he began to make the Sweet Osmanthus Sandwiched Yuanxiao.

The method of making Yuanxiao was quite different from that of Tangyuan, therefore Yuan Zhou prepared a large bamboo basket to make them.

After a sound of "Peng", Yuan Zhou set down a white-jade-like board on which there were many cubes wrapped by a transparent jelly-like thing. Inside of the cubes were sesame seeds and some types of dry fruits, such as finely divided sunflower seeds that were clearly seen.

Of course, the most conspicuous thing in the small cubes was still the sweet osmanthus, which appeared to be fresh. The petals of each flower were clearly seen and brought out the best of each other with the dry fruits inside.

"What's this?" while inhaling due to the hot dumplings, KFC asked with curiosity.

"Sandwiched sweet osmanthus." After saying that, Yuan Zhou continued grinding the well dried glutinous rice with the stone mill.

"Beautiful. Are you going to make Tangyuan?" Having eaten up the dumplings, Sun Ming asked curiously.

"No. It's the Sweet Osmanthus Sandwiched Yuanxiao." Yuan Zhou told him again the name.

"Whatever. But you have to get another serving of the dumplings. There's truly nothing more delicious than the dumplings." Sun Ming heaved a sigh contentedly with the smile on his face.

"No. Only one serving is available for each person," Yuan Zhou said earnestly.

"You are really a Compass. Do you still remember that I'm your brother?" said Sun Ming with an awfully discontented tone.

He must be kidding. With only eight dumplings for one serving, how could one possibly eat his fill? People who couldn't eat their fill were the most dreadful.

"Humm. That's why I am treating," Yuan Zhou answered with a nod and said naturally.

"..., I'm convinced now." Sun Ming got speechless instantly.

"Don't worry. You can order a bowl of Yuanxiao later and eat your fill." KFC had likewise finished eating the dumplings by then. He said that after enjoying the aftertaste for quite a while.

"I don't eat sweet food. It tastes so terrible." Sun Ming waved his hands continually.

"The fillings really look nice. It's crystal clear and beautiful," said KFC earnestly.

"I don't eat anything that's sweet." Sun Ming was rather determined on this point.

At that time, Yuan Zhou happened to grind the glutinous rice well. Only after grinding thrice did the rice flour become fine and smooth and available to be used.

Different from other Tangyuan, this Sweet Osmanthus Sandwiched Yuanxiao had formerly been called Wuguizi in Jinling City, therefore the way of making it was also quite special.

Yuan Zhou first put the milled glutinous rice flour into a spun silk bamboo sieve and sieved it into fine rice flour.

"It is really elegant to use the cloth screen," Sun Ming said in surprise while pointing at the white spun silk bamboo sieve held in Yuan Zhou's hand.

"The taste can be better that way." When Yuan Zhou was working, his eyes that exposed from the face mask were extraordinarily solemn.

Yuan Zhou first brushed the Jianghua water over the bottom of the large bamboo basket and then poured the sandwiched sweet osmanthus into the basket directly.

He then began to shake the large bamboo basket with one hand and meanwhile scattered the rice flour and water with the other. After shaking the basket continually for a while, the white and cute Yuanxiao as large as cherries came into being.

"Marvelous work," KFC looked at the small Yuanxiao that were the same size carefully and said admiringly.

"Indeed. So it is done?" Sun Ming likewise revealed a surprised look.

They had never seen such a way to make Tangyuan. In their eyes, whatever had fillings inside were all Tangyuan. But actually, there was a significant difference between Yuanxiao and Tangyuan.

"Yes. Now they can be boiled." With a nod, Yuan Zhou indicated that it was done now.

"I'd taste them carefully. I have never savored such a kind of Tangyuan. The fillings won't leak out, will they?" KFC asked

curiously.

"Definitely not. The craftsmanship of this brother of mine is terrific." Sun Ming didn't feel comfortable to hear others doubt his brother.

"I'm just asking casually. But couldn't we eat more dumplings?" Speaking of the superb craftsmanship, KFC instantly recalled the dumplings that he had eaten just now. The nice taste was still lingering in his mouth.

"I'd say it's too difficult. Even I couldn't eat one more," Sun Ming said deservedly.

"I'll come to try my fortune next time. Anyway, the [Tangyuan](#) will be served soon. I can definitely eat my fill." Said KFC with a complacent expression.

Sun Ming, "..."

Tangyuan is a kind of glutinous rice balls, looking similar to Yuanxiao.

Chapter 261: Attraction of Sweet Yuanxiao

"Whatever you say, I don't eat sweet things." Sun Ming crossed his arms over his chest and revealed an indifferent manner.

"It looks quite delicious," said KFC primly.

"Here's your Sweet Osmanthus Sandwiched Yuanxiao. Sun, do you want to have a taste?" Yuan Zhou carried the dish onto the table and then asked directly.

"I don't want it." Sun Ming refused flatly.

"Are you sure?" KFC took a deep breath of the sweet aroma and then said.

"Yes, I'm sure." Sun Ming still nodded affirmatively.

"Then what else do you want to eat?" Asked Yuan Zhou while pointing at the menu.

"Of course the most expensive dish." Sun Ming said unreservedly.

"The tea egg?" Yuan Zhou took a glance at Sun Ming curiously.

"How could only one tea egg fill up my stomach?" Sun Ming looked at Yuan Zhou snappily.

"The most expensive dish was the tea egg." Yuan Zhou shrugged, indicating there was only that temporarily.

"An egg and a serving of Egg Fried Rice Set, please." Since his brother Yuan Zhou stood treat, Sun Ming did quite well in generosity.

"One moment, please." Yuan Zhou was always generous to his brothers.

Then Yuan Zhou went away to cook other dishes while KFC likewise began to eat the Sweet Osmanthus Sandwiched Yuanxiao.

"It's really like pearls falling into a jade plate. So beautiful." KFC heaved a sigh of admiration.

"It should be pigs falling into a jade plate. (The pronunciation of pig is same to that of pearl in Chinese.)" Sun Ming craned his neck and had a look at the dish, for which he had no preference.

"You really don't have good taste. Look, the appearance is just perfect," KFC said affirmatively.

"Just eat your Yuanxiao." Sun Ming still remained unmoved.

"Don't ever ask for it from me in a moment." KFC liked the small white jade-like Yuanxiao in the bowl very much.

"Don't worry about that." Sun Ming responded with a tone of contempt.

KFC indeed didn't speak with him anymore. He scooped one piece up with the spoon and put it into his mouth immediately.

At that moment, he was in a state of great expectation, mainly because this bowl of Yuanxiao looked extraordinarily beautiful.

Every small Yuanxiao was rising and falling in the bowl as clear as water. With slight stirring, the cherry-sized Yuanxiao began to roll over, revealing the sweet osmanthus inside.

The light yellow sweet osmanthus appeared extraordinarily fresh and was charmingly embedded in the satiny Yuanxiao. Along with the rolling of Yuanxiao, it showed its good-looking appearance.

"Awwoo", KFC swallowed one at one gulp.

As expected, the taste didn't let him down.

As soon as it entered the mouth, he felt the delicate fragrance of the glutinous rice flour with strong rice taste first. Having been bitten, the seemingly soft and sticky Yuanxiao had a slightly chewy taste. More importantly, it wasn't sticky to the teeth at all.

"Hiss.... It's so hot." KFC couldn't help opening his mouth and

then let out a hiss.

The moment it was bitten open, the fillings inside instantly flowed out and a jet of strong fragrance rushed direct into his nose.

When he realized the fragrance was coming out of the mouth, KFC closed his mouth again immediately.

"Yum-yum. How fragrant!" KFC couldn't help murmuring in a low voice.

Only after the fillings weren't that scalding did KFC start to chew. The combination of the fragrance of sweet osmanthus, walnut, and other various dried fruits directly whetted his appetite.

The soft and sticky Yuanxiao, fillings full of gravy, and small particles of dried fruits plus the slight fragrance of the sweet osmanthus all contributed to the excellent delicacy of the Sweet Osmanthus Sandwiched Yuanxiao.

Although a small Yuanxiao was only as large as a cherry, the fillings inside were nevertheless extraordinarily plentiful. The fragrance of the dried fruits and sweet osmanthus blended with that of the glutinous rice flour made KFC have no time to do anything else at all.

He put the Yuanxiao into his mouth one after another. Every time he bit open a Yuanxiao, he hissed due to the scalding fillings.

The hiss sounded frequently, but KFC still enjoyed doing that without stop.

Because it was exactly the deliciousness of the scalding fillings of the Yuanxiao.

Meanwhile, every time KFC opened his mouth, some fragrance leaked out. Seated beside him, Sun Ming could smell it very easily.

"Hey, are you eating flowers? It's so fragrant." Sun Ming would never admit that he had wanted to swallow the abundant saliva just now.

"Yum-yum. So delicious." KFC answered vaguely and then continued to eat.

"It's no more than a bowl of sweet dish. I don't think it's so tasty." Sun Ming glimpsed at the small Yuanxiao alike to the white jade. Then he said naturally after gulping down the saliva in his mouth.

Luckily, Yuan Zhou carried other dishes ordered by Sun Ming to him at that time.

"Wow, it's still the tea egg that smells better," Sun Ming poked the tea egg and said contentedly.

"Eat it. Thank you," suddenly, Yuan Zhou said.

"No need for thanks. You are welcome." Sun Ming revealed a manner of understanding him.

"Ok." Yuan Zhou also nodded the head, indicating he had known that.

Only KFC, who had eaten up all Yuanxiao including even the broth, didn't quite understand. However, it didn't hinder him grabbing the dishes from Sun Ming.

The treat seemed to take some time, but actually it was no more than 10 minutes. Nevertheless, the customers had already waited in line outside the restaurant, which indicated that the dinner time started.

Zhou Jia had likewise already started to help to greet the customers.

"Peng", a person who was carrying a travel bag got seated beside Sun Ming.

"Little girl, take my order." With the whiskers all over his face, the man was wearing camouflage pants and a vest as well as a pair of sunglasses. He appeared to be a traveler.

"Coming. What would you like to eat, sir?" Zhou Jia walked to him quickly and then began to greet.

"Don't you have a menu?" Whiskers asked affirmatively.

"Sorry, the menu and price list of all our dishes are all written on the wall behind you. You can choose by yourself," Zhou Jia said courteously while pointing at the wall behind him.

"Ok." The person then turned his head and looked toward the wall after answering her.

"The price is really not good and isn't mentioned on the gourmet map," Whiskers muttered.

Standing at the side, Zhou Jia just kept smiling and didn't say anything.

"Then get me all the dishes, one serving for each, please." It could be speculated that Whiskers indeed had a very big stomach.

With the muscular arms, camouflage pants and resolute and steadfast face, the man was even bigger than Chen Wei. Despite that, it was absolutely not a good reason for him to be able to eat up all the dishes.

"I'm sorry, sir. But according to our rules, anybody that cannot finish their dishes will be blacklisted and won't be entertained forever." Zhou Jia was rather proud while speaking of that.

After all, Yuan Zhou's craftsmanship was so excellent that he didn't worry that someone would make trouble because of that.

Even so, the people that waited in line for meals wouldn't let that happen first.

"Oh? You even have rules here! Then cut half of them and get me each of the remaining dishes one by one." Whiskers was apparently a person who followed the rules.

"Sir, the uppermost dishes are for breakfast. Are you sure you want all of these dishes? Because some are repeated ones." Zhou Jia felt the man possibly came here to make trouble, but she still reminded courteously.

"This girl made it so complicated. One serving of Egg Fried Rice Set, and besides, get these dishes for me." While speaking, Whiskers pointed to several dishes.

Translucent Beef Slices, Sautéed Vermicelli with Spicy Minced Pork, Silk Twined Rabbit, Steamed Tofu with Minced Pork. All these were Sichuan dishes. That did make sense. Since he was now in Chengdu, what else could he eat?

"Alright. It's totally 2190 RMB only. You can either pay by bank transfer or cash. May I ask which one you prefer?" Zhou Jia said courteously.

"It's truly fairly expensive." Whiskers whispered and then answered, "I'll make the bank transfer."

After that, he began to make the bank transfer into the bank

account provided.

After Zhou Jia confirmed receipt of the money, she reported to Yuan Zhou to prepare the dishes.

"What exactly are the dishes served in this restaurant like?" From his words, Whiskers apparently came prepared.

...

Chapter 262: A Traveler That Never Returns

The utterance of the person was easily heard by Sun Ming at the side when he was drinking the seaweed soup. As soon as he gulped down the soup, he said.

"The craftsmanship of this brother of mine is impeccable. You are definitely lucky to eat the dishes at the mentioned price."

Sun Ming spoke quite earnestly with certainty.

"He's your brother?" What Whiskers cared about was nevertheless the trifles rather than the taste of the dishes.

"Of course. Look, the person who was cooking like a god is exactly my brother," Sun Ming said with an expression of pride while pointing at Yuan Zhou, who was cooking the set meal in the kitchen,

"Oh, really? He seems to be good at cooking, indeed." Whiskers appeared to be a foodie, too.

"Yeah, of course. Others would inevitably make things out of the pan while cooking. But as you can see, not even a rice grain comes out from the pan while my brother is cooking. This is the genuine craftsmanship." Sun Ming pointed to the surrounding area of the pan.

Those who stayed close and sat at the long curved table all could

see the neighboring areas of Yuan Zhou's pan were very clean, unlike other chefs whose dishes could even be told from a distance with the help of the ingredients dropping out of the pan.

"He's indeed awesome." Whiskers cooked for himself occasionally, anyhow. And naturally, he knew how good the craftsmanship was.

"You are here for the first time? What brings you here?" Sun Ming recalled the word of the person just now and asked conveniently.

"I checked the introductions in the gourmet map first and then logged in the forum for suggestions. When I saw all the people recommending this place, I came," Whiskers explained earnestly.

"So that's why. The one mentioned in the gourmet map is indeed my brother. You just wait and eat, but be cautious about your tongue." Said Sun Ming smilingly.

"Oh?" Whiskers got confused.

"Don't swallow it up," after a burst of laughter, Sun Ming said proudly.

"No, no." Whiskers also smiled and then shook his head.

He had been to so many places and eaten a variety of delicacies. Even if it indeed had a booming business, how could he possibly

swallow his tongue up in such a small restaurant? Whiskers was quite confident about this point.

"You'll know what I mean after you eat it." Sun Ming didn't argue with him at all and directly answered.

Yuan Zhou cooked more and more quickly. Sometimes, customers who watched him cooking even felt there was an afterimage left by his hands.

Therefore, the dishes ordered by Whiskers were soon ready and carried to him by Zhou Jia as usual.

"Here are your dishes. Help yourself, please," Zhou Jia said with a smile after she carried all the dishes ordered to him.

"Ok. Thank you." Whiskers thanked her politely.

Then Zhou Jia started to greet the next person.

"Now you can begin to savor your dishes. I'm going to leave you alone while eating," said Sun Ming with a smile on his face.

"Ok." Whiskers likewise answered with a nod. After that, he began to eat his dishes.

As for Sun Ming, he continued to protect his own dishes for another round. After all, KFC was glaring like a tiger eyeing its

prey and preparing to launch a sneak attack.

Having barely eaten the dishes, Whiskers finally understood what Sun Ming meant by saying not to swallow up the tongue.

After eating up the spicy hot, fresh and fragrant beef, even his tongue emitted such a taste. If it wasn't because there was one piece left, Whiskers would have already drawn his tongue out and cleaned up the taste over it.

Meanwhile, the fragrant and tender rabbit meat made him experience the attraction of the multi-flavored meat. It turned out that the rabbit meat wasn't actually so rigid, but was fragrant and tender, moderately salty and fresh as well as yummy and appetizing.

"So there's really the dish of Ants Climbing A Tree (a figurative name of Sautéed Vermicelli with Spicy Minced Pork, with ants representing the minced pork and tree representing the vermicelli)?" Whiskers picked some vermicelli up with the chopsticks and said in surprise.

For other dishes like Translucent Beef Slices, he didn't feel anything special due to its intrinsic taste. Nevertheless, this Sautéed Vermicelli with Spicy Minced Pork required excellent craftsmanship.

The vermicelli and spicy minced pork were moderately soft and fragrant, with the pork being chewy and vermicelli smooth. The slight spiciness stimulated the tongue, telling it to eat more.

Whiskers couldn't attend to other things anymore, but just stuffed the dish into his mouth. He just felt every dish was so delicious and was a top-notch delicacy.

"The tofu is also very nice. Not only the appearance, but also the taste," said Whiskers admiringly.

Then he gulped down all dishes that he had ordered like the wind puffing the clouds away. After that, the plates became so clean and shining that they appeared as if to be washed.

"How do you like it? Are they delicious?" At that time, Sun Ming asked at the side with a big smile on his face.

He had heartily expected to hear the praise in a flood of words. However, he only heard a sigh.

"Sigh." Having heard Sun Ming's question, Whiskers got dumbfounded for a while and then let out a sigh.

"What? You don't like the taste?" Sun Ming didn't look good on his face.

It was absolutely unacceptable to belittle his brother. Sun Ming intended to reason things out directly with him.

"I don't mean that. Whiskers denied immediately. The expression on his face covered with the whiskers appeared to be entangled.

"Then what do you mean?" Sun Ming tried to get to the bottom of things.

"Little girl, get me a glass of watermelon juice," Whiskers shook the empty glass and said to Zhou Jia beside him first.

"Bank transfer. Yeah, I know," Just when Zhou Jia wanted to say something, Whiskers said directly ahead of her.

Only after that did Whiskers begin to answer Sun Ming, "I won't be able to eat such delicacies anymore in future. That really makes me upset."

"It's not a big deal. You can come to eat again." Sun Ming revealed a manner of "so easy".

"I'm here for tour." Whiskers shook his head.

"Then travel here for several more times again. Many tourists come every year to this city." Sun Ming felt it was not a big problem in the highly developed society.

"I'm a man of principle. One of the principles that I adhere to is that I never go to a place for the second time." While speaking of his principles, Whiskers became much more solemn.

Looking at the person named Compass and then the other with a

solemn look beside him, Sun Ming slightly choked. Both had their own principles.

"You can eat them when Boss Yuan opens a branch restaurant." KFC chimed in timely at the side.

"Oh, yeah. Branch restaurant." Whiskers suddenly reacted and cheered up.

"Boss, will you open a branch restaurant in Guangzhou?" Whiskers asked him about one city that he hadn't yet been to.

"Are you asking me for opening a branch restaurant?" Yuan Zhou asked without turning a hair.

"Yes, yeah. You can open a branch restaurant, better in Guangzhou or Lanzhou. Either is ok." Whiskers said following Yuan Zhou's word.

"Sorry. I am not preparing to open a branch restaurant." Yuan Zhou refused with an earnest expression.

"Er..." Whiskers was a little speechless.

Having wittily collected another request, Yuan Zhou went back to the kitchen and continued to prepare other dishes. In his heart, naturally, he had given himself a thumbs-up for his intelligent speaking skills.

"Since my brother cooks so well and besides, you like it so much, you can come whenever you are free. Some principles are not necessarily to be followed." Sun Ming suggested him at the side.

"No, nothing can let me go to a place for the second time," said Whiskers solemnly.

"A strange principle." Actually, Sun Ming wanted to say "eccentric" more.

After all, it was he himself who stood the loss and couldn't eat the delicious dishes. Just as expected, Whiskers had started to feel disconsolate by then. He would rather adhere to his principles and feel depressed than come to tour again.

"Sigh. Delicacies are hard to come by." Whiskers heaved a sigh and then drank a mouthful of the watermelon juice.

"Indeed. Are you sure not to come again?" Sun Ming really couldn't understand what Whiskers adhered to that principle for.

"No, I won't come." Whiskers nodded the head.

Sun Ming and KFC looked at each other and no longer tried to persuade him.

Every person had his own principles even if some appeared

rather strange. However, they just existed.

Chapter 263: Warm-hearted Yuan Zhou

While Whiskers was drinking the watermelon juice, he savored every sip very carefully. After drinking it up unhurriedly, he suddenly took his travel bag and walked away immediately.

From beginning to end, he didn't say a single word to Yuan Zhou and of course, he didn't turn his head back, either.

"A weird person." Sun Ming sighed.

"And moreover an eccentric of principle." KFC followed.

"Ok. Let's leave now. We have affected my brother doing business," Sun Ming waved his hand and said to KFC.

"Got it. Let's go." KFC nodded and stood up.

"Compass, we are leaving. Let's get together next time." Sun Ming shouted to Yuan Zhou.

"Sure. Bye." Yuan Zhou set the plates down and then answered earnestly after he turned the head to them.

After that, Sun Ming enjoyed the benefits of a celebrity. Almost all the customers looked at him as Yuan Zhou seldom spoke during the business time.

Nevertheless, Sun Ming walked out of Yuan Zhou's restaurant swaggeringly along with KFC.

"This guy is Boss Yuan's friend?" The new customers were all curious.

"Yes, he is. He's the boss's brother." From behind them came a soft loli voice. Of course, it was Mu Xiaoyun with her twin-tailed hair.

"Wow, it's Xiaoyun! I haven't seen you for a long time." The acquaintances greeted her immediately with a smile.

"Humm. School started, so I am in the school recently." Mu Xiaoyun entered the restaurant together with her brother Mu Xiaojie. When she heard that, she nodded the head seriously.

"Did your studies get worse?" Basically, all the regular customers took Mu Xiaoyun as their niece or someone similar; therefore, they asked naturally.

"Nope. I come to accompany my brother for dinner today," Mu Xiaoyun said briskly.

"Alright. I happened to finish my dinner. You can take my seat." An acquaintance dragged his friend away from the seats and said smilingly.

"Thank you, uncle." Mu Xiaoyun thanked the person together

with her brother.

"Not at all. I'm leaving." The customer and his friend then got out of the restaurant.

The customer who had originally asked questions became more dumbfounded.

"I worked here for two months during the summer vacation," Mu Xiaoyun explained.

Only then did that customer understand why so many people said hi to this little girl.

Obviously, Zhou Jia didn't mind at all. She went straight up and greeted them courteously.

"What do you two want to eat?"

"Brother, you first," Mu Xiaoyun said to her elder brother Mu Xiaojie.

"I would like the Egg Fried Rice. What about you?" Mu Xiaojie roughly estimated the money he brought privately and said conservatively.

"I want to eat noodles." Having considered for a while, Mu Xiaoyun asked tentatively.

"No problem. I'll treat you to that." Mu Xiaojie let out a sigh of relief. Luckily, the money was just enough.

"Elder sister, get us a serving of Egg Fried Rice and Clear Broth Noodle Soup. That's it." Mu Xiaoyun ordered the dishes deftly.

"Ok. One moment, please." Zhou Jia answered with a smile and then reported the dishes to Yuan Zhou.

It was likewise a coincidence that Mu Xiaoyun and Mu Xiaojie came to eat together today. Their mother would go on a business trip and thus sent Mu Xiaoyun to her father's home before she left. Coincidentally, their father happened to work overtime. Therefore, he could only give the two kids money and let them come here to eat.

The crafty brother, Mu Xiaojie, embezzled some small money to play online games, which was naturally unknown to Mu Xiaoyun.

"Brother, did dad give us enough money? If not, I can use mine." Mu Xiaoyun was a little worried, hence asked.

"Don't worry. If it's not enough, I can use my money. I won't use yours," said Mu Xiaojie generously.

"Thank you, brother." Mu Xiaoyun smiled sweetly.

"Humm." Mu Xiaoyun straightened his back happily as if he had really used his own money.

In a little moment, Yuan Zhou carried their dishes to them personally.

"Here are the dishes for you two." Yuan Zhou didn't leave immediately after he set down the dishes.

"Thank you, boss." Mu Xiaoyun was very happy when she saw Yuan Zhou again. After all, she had been taken good care of by Yuan Zhou when she was working here.

"You are welcome. Long time no see." Yuan Zhou asked primly.

"Yeah, exactly. I haven't smelled your delicacies for long, so I come here with my brother to have a taste." Mu Xiaoyun was fairly happy.

"Welcome. How are your studies?" Like other ordinary elders, Yuan Zhou asked about her studies.

"Don't worry, boss. I have very good scores." Mu Xiaoyun nodded her head earnestly with her twin-tail hair swaying along with the head at the same time. She looked extraordinarily lovable.

"That's great. Then get down to your dishes." Yuan Zhou returned to his position to work after he got the satisfactory answer from Mu Xiaoyun.

"Boss Yuan does not look quite bad-tempered." Mu Xiaojie was then relieved.

"Of course, he isn't bad-tempered at all. He is contrarily very nice." Mu Xiaoyun said immediately, trying to defend Yuan Zhou.

"I know. But it's the first time that Boss Yuan said so much." Mu Xiaojie indicated that he was quite surprised with that.

"That's not true. Boss is actually a very nice person. Besides, he is fairly scrupulous," said Mu Xiaoyun affirmatively. She recalled the previous experiences of working in Yuan Zhou's restaurant and revealed a smile on her face.

"It's mainly because he appears rather cold. I just thought he had a bad temper." Mu Xiaoyun only saw Yuan Zhou carefully once when he applied for the job, therefore he knew little about him.

"I feel my boss is just not good at communicating with others." Thinking of some occasions when Yuan Zhou gave irrelevant answers in a serious manner, Mu Xiaoyun covered her mouth and began to snicker.

"Now let's stop talking about him and start to eat. I'm going to starve." While smelling the fragrance of the dishes, Mu Xiaojie lost interest in other things. He took the chopsticks and urged his sister.

"Ok." After a nod, Mu Xiaoyun also started to eat.

When there were only 10 minutes left before the dinner time ended, Shen Min entered the restaurant.

"Why are you so early today?" Zhou Jia asked in surprise.

"Yes, there aren't many classes." Shen Min nodded the head and answered.

"Shall we work together?" Zhou Jia inquired.

"Ok, sure." Shen Min agreed squarely.

With both attendants working there, the hectic restaurant was arranged in good order. In just a little while, 10 minutes passed.

As usual, Yuan Zhou brought out the closing words by himself. When all the customers were basically gone except Mu Xiaoyun and Mu Xiaojie, Zhou Jia and Shen Min began to do the shift change.

"Haven't you finished your meal?" With a frown, Yuan Zhou went up and asked.

"I have finished. I just want to sit here for a while," said Mu Xiaoyun with a mischievous look.

"Ok, but don't stay here for too long." Yuan Zhou nodded the head and then looked at Mu Xiaojie who was about to finish his dishes.

After Zhou Jia left, the restaurant quieted down shortly. Yuan Zhou was clearing the kitchen away lightly at the side, emitting a slight sound of "Ping Pang".

Having hesitated for quite a while, Shen Min went up and asked, "Boss, did you tell Sister Jiang to come and pick me up last night?"

As soon as Shen Min arrived at her dormitory last night, she got the matter clear, therefore she came here a little earlier today to say thanks.

"Yes, I did. I don't provide pick-up services, so the fare will be deducted from your salary." Yuan Zhou nodded the head and then reminded her after thinking for an instant.

"Thank you, boss." Shen Min wasn't quite accustomed to the way Yuan Zhou talked. She had thought she caused trouble and thus felt a little embarrassed.

After that, the restaurant quieted down again. At that time, Mu Xiaojie finally ate up the last rice grain in the plate.

"Boss, we are leaving now." Mu Xiaoyun waved her hand to Yuan Zhou with one hand while taking her brother's hand with the other.

"Take care." Yuan Zhou stood in the kitchen and didn't intend to accompany them out.

While Yuan Zhou was turning around in the kitchen, Mu Xiaoyun said to Shen Min secretly, "..."

Chapter 264: Yuan Zhou's Passive Acting-Cool Skills (Part 1)

Seeing that Shen Ming was a little embarrassed, Mu Xiaoyun let her brother, Mu Xiaojie, leave first and then started to talk with Shen Min.

"Elder sister, Boss Yuan's meaning is that you can take a cab when you leave at night. And if there's not enough time, you can also leave first."

After saying that, Mu Xiaoyun blinked naughtily.

"Really?" Shen Min was suspicious about that.

"I'm serious. I worked here for two months during the summer vacation." Said Mu Xiaoyun affirmatively.

Only then did Shen Min believe in her. She looked at Yuan Zhou with uncertainty and again at Mu Xiaoyun.

"I'm leaving. Elder sister, bye." When Mu Xiaoyun found Shen Min wasn't that depressed anymore, she ran out of the restaurant and went to meet her brother.

Even if she wasn't quite sure about that, Shen Min found it inappropriate to ask. After all, Yuan Zhou had said that just now. What else could she ask? She could only work more diligently.

While Yuan Zhou was orderly preparing for the business time at night, Zhou Jia, which had just got off work, nevertheless became unhappy.

Zhou Jia just boarded the bus and was preparing to go to the night school when her phone rang.

On the screen were the two words of Li Fang, which appeared quite conspicuous.

"Why is this person calling me?" With a frown, Zhou Jia only answered the phone after it rang quite a while.

"Jia Jia, why did you answer the phone so slowly?" As soon as the phone was put through, a male voice with slight impatience passed.

The voice sounded good, being loud and clear. The content was nevertheless not as good as the voice.

"What's the matter?" Zhou Jia usually looked comely. Yet now, her thin eyebrows were frowning as she said indifferently.

"Couldn't I call you if there are no matters? How's your studying in the evening college?" said the man deservedly with a tone of amusement.

"Couldn't be better. I'm going to class." While speaking of that, Zhou Jia prepared to hang off the phone.

"Hold on. I'm just asking if you want to come to my department to work. I have just been promoted to the director of the cold dish department." With an unapparent sense of superiority in his tone, the man said quite affirmatively.

"No need. I have got a job. It's also in a restaurant," Zhou Jia refused immediately.

"What kind of good job can you find? The duration won't be long. Besides, you should know I'm working in a four-star hotel." While speaking, the man revealed obvious arrogance in his tone.

However, that only made Zhou Jia dislike him more.

"So what? My boss cooks much better than the chefs in your hotel," after a scornful laugh, Zhou Jia said with a fairly affirmative tone.

"Jia Jia, you can't say like that. The head chef of my hotel is a first-class cook. How could a boss of a tiny restaurant compare with our head chef on culinary skills?" A look of disdain could apparently be imagined out from the way he talked.

"You don't believe me? Just come and have a taste on your own. Of course, it only works if you are able to afford the dishes," said Zhou Jia with full of confidence.

"Haw-haw. How expensive could dishes in a tiny restaurant be? I will go to visit you tomorrow," answered the man with a fairly deserved manner.

"Don't blame me for not reminding you when you find you can't afford it. I'm going to class now." When Zhou Jia was arriving at the right bus stop, she hung up the phone immediately.

"Send the address to my phone..." Even before the male voice ended, Zhou Jia had hung up the phone.

Taking the phone in her hand, Zhou Jia thought for quite a while before sending the address of Yuan Zhou's restaurant to the man.

It might not be a bad idea to deal this arrogant man a blow. Zhou Jia disliked him very much.

This man was Li Fang, who once had a blind date with Zhou Jia. At that time, Zhou Jia just made some polite greetings with a very conspicuous sense of refusal. But the guy Li Fang had taken a fancy to Zhou Jia and moreover considered himself to be her boyfriend every time.

It was a tradition in Zhou Jia's hometown that at the first meeting of a blind date, if the lady didn't reject on the spot or even if she just agreed to make regular friends to start with, the man would think the lady had admitted their relationship. Naturally, Zhou Jia only got to know that after the meeting.

Therefore, she was entangled by him since then. It didn't work even if Zhou Jia refused him in a euphemistic but explicit way. Li Fang just insisted that they should try to get on together.

Of course, his job in the cold dish department of the four-star hotel made Li Fang feel proud, along with his craftsmanship.

In the past half a month, Zhou Jia had gotten to know her boss quite well. He was the person who defeated the head chef at World Foodie Hotel. The very high price, the customers lining up for meals every day, and the very poor dining atmosphere were the best evidence of Yuan Zhou's superb culinary skills.

Zhou Jia felt that Boss Yuan would definitely teach him how to behave humbly as long as Li Fang dared to come tomorrow.

Then, Zhou Jia went to class with confidence.

The sun and moon changed shifts every day. On the next early morning, Yuan Zhou got out of the bed and went out to jog before opening the restaurant for business. Everything went as usual during the breakfast time and nothing special happened.

Yuan Zhou was only thinking about how to improve his speaking skills in order to complete the mission. Never had he expected that somebody would go to his restaurant to have a meal with a purpose of challenging him.

Customers were still as many as usual. Yuan Zhou was also busy with cooking in the kitchen.

"Boss Yuan, one serving of Egg Fried Rice."

"Steamed Tofu with Minced Pork plus one serving of 100 Styles of Rice Cuisine."

"Sautéed Vermicelli with Spicy Minced Pork and one serving of 100 Styles of Rice Cuisine, Boss Yuan."

The sound of ordering dishes rose one after another and the restaurant also became lively due to the crowd of customers.

To Li Fang, he was quite happy to go and help Zhou Jia judge the tiny restaurant since she made the appointment. That's right. He thought Zhou Jia was actually asking him to help her evaluate the craftsmanship of her boss.

After all, he was the director of the cold dish department of a four-star hotel. It was pretty easy for him to do such work.

Noontime on Tuesday was usually not busy, therefore he went out of the hotel unhurriedly. Dressed in a casual suit, he directly headed for Taoxi Road.

Frankly speaking, Li Fang indeed had a good-looking face. He was 175cm tall and had an average weight, appearing rather clean and neat. The only problem was that he was an absolute chauvinist.

Having had slight contact with him, Zhou Jia couldn't bear him at all. He was a conceited man and always acted his own way. Even before Zhou Jia agreed him to be his girlfriend, he requested that she move to his house and live together.

The excuse was fairly funny. He said she could save the rent that way. Besides, he didn't pay much respect to Zhou Jia and believed his feelings toward her was noble. That made Zhou Jia quite puzzled. She had never encountered such a man as him.

"Taoxi Road Stop. Here I am." Li Fang got off the bus unhurriedly and checked the address on his phone carefully.

After that, he walked toward the side street.

"This woman didn't even tell me the exact address but only told me it was the one with most customers. Was she expecting him to count the people in every restaurant one by one?" Li Fang was much discontented while reading the message.

In his opinion, however many customers there were, the restaurant couldn't match with his hotel. All these tiny restaurants were easily filled up with only three or five people. There was no one that had many customers.

The next moment, however, he was slapped on the face. He appeared as if he had heard the sound of slapping "Pa Pa".

The long line of dozens of people in front of him was so obvious. They were indeed not less.

"Is it this one?" Li Fang didn't believe that. He went up and took a look.

As was expected, he saw Zhou Jia greeting the customers enthusiastically inside. Just when he wanted to cut the line, he was stopped.

"Hey, young man. You are new, right? Go to wait in the line." It was the tall and slim man who stopped him.

"I don't think such a tiny restaurant deserves waiting in line." Li Fang seemed to be fairly unwilling to obey.

"If you don't wait in sequence, then you leave," the tall and slim man also said flatly.

He stood there and got stunned for an instant. Looking at Zhou Jia and then at the long line, Li Fang took a deep breath and then went to the end of the line.

The tall and slim man nevertheless continued patrolling around and warned those who didn't line up like that.

"A tiny restaurant surprisingly has so many customers!" Li Fang murmured discontentedly.

When he saw people come out from the restaurant soon, however, his confidence then resumed. The dishes definitely tasted bad, otherwise they wouldn't come out so quickly. After all, it took one or two hours to have a meal in his hotel frequently. But here in this restaurant, customers went inside and came out within only ten minutes.

Chapter 265: Yuan Zhou's Passive Acting-Cool Skills (Part 2)

Seeing that, Li Fang calmed down and started to wait. In his opinion, he could soon see Zhou Jia and talk to her directly then.

If others knew his girlfriend was working as an attendant in an inferior tiny restaurant, how could he have the face to be the director? They would even think he was treating his girlfriend harshly.

Thinking of that, he got worried.

"Hi, bro. Could you let me in first? I have an emergency." Li Fang touched out a pack of cigarettes and then handed it over.

Unluckily, it was Ling Hong who waited in front of him. As he had nothing to do at noon today, he came here for lunch, but he was late and thus had to wait in line. At that moment, he was just in a bad mood.

"Huh, let you in first? What the hell do you think you are?" Ling Hong wasn't a good-tempered person. He talked as if he were a rascal.

"Well, bro. It's really rude of you to say swear." Li Fang frowned, but didn't take the cigarettes back.

"What? You aren't something?" Ling Hong asked with much curiosity.

"I don't mean that. I'm just asking." Li Fang didn't get annoyed this time. After all, when Ling Hong turned around to him, Li Fang found he was dressed decently and obviously was well off. Thinking of that, he moved the cigarettes closer to Ling Hong.

"No need. I don't want to affect my appetite." Ling Hong didn't smoke much, let alone it was only worth 20RMB per pack.

"So will you change the position with me?" Li Fang didn't believe a well-dressed person meant being better off, therefore he continued asking persistently.

"I came earlier than you. Why would I let you in first?" After saying that, Ling Hong revealed a manner of disdain to talk to him and then turned around, showing him the back side of his head.

"Low class." Only then did Li Fang get angry. He muttered vaguely in the mouth.

Customers in his hotel were either rich people or dignitaries while here in this place were nevertheless people of all walks.

"That woman, Zhou Jia, hadn't followed such bad examples, has she?" Suddenly, Li Fang felt shocked and thought with disapproval.

Thinking of that, Li Fang was more determined to let Zhou Jia go with him. Otherwise, he had to tell that to her father and let him come personally.

Luckily, it didn't take too long before he got his turn, leaving him no more time to make blind and disorderly conjectures.

Of course, that likewise happened after one hour. Not until then did he enter the restaurant.

"Such poor surroundings." Li Fang got seated with an expression of disapproval.

Yet he really had good luck, as his seat was just beside Zhou Jia.

"Jia Jia, so you are working here?" There was full of contempt in his tone. He just didn't speak that out directly in words.

"You'd better savor the taste first." Zhou Jia clenched her teeth, but still revealed a forced smile on the face.

"You might as well leave and come with me. We are still short of a kitchen helper in our cold dish department." Li Fang paid no attention to Zhou Jia's discontent.

"Can your hotel pay me 100 RMB and allow me to work for only six hours each day?" All her anger were gone when she saw Li Fang's look. Instead, she asked curiously.

"What are you talking about? Jia Jia, let me tell you. One shouldn't aim too high." Li Fang educated Zhou Jia seriously.

"Ho Ho." After the simple two words, Zhou Jia turned around and then went to do other work.

After all, she was fairly busy and so many customers were waiting for her to order dishes.

"She's really a woman that aims too high." When he looked at Zhou Jia and found she really left him there alone, Li Fang sat down with a discontented look.

Then, he found almost every customer that had just arrived were ordering the dishes eagerly.

"Dear me! Is he selling fast food?" Li Fang was a little surprised.

He turned the head and checked the surrounding of the restaurant again and then confirmed his speculation. Except for the sergestes wall, there was nothing attractive in the restaurant.

"Jia Jia, I'm going to order the dishes. Where's your menu?" Li Fang looked around in a circle and then shouted straightforwardly.

"Coming. The menu of our restaurant is on the wall behind you. You can choose by yourself," Zhou Jia maintained the most basic

courtesy and professionalism and said mildly.

"Tsk. Don't you even have a menu?" Li Fang frowned and said discontentedly.

"You can order the dishes now." Zhou Jia just stood at the side and waited there.

Li Fang then had nothing to say. He turned the head quietly and looked at the price list. In less than 5 seconds, however, he was provoked immediately.

"What damn price is this! In such a tiny restaurant, some dishes are even more expensive than those in my hotel," Li Fang pointed at the prices and said unbelievably.

"I have already told you to bring some more money," Zhou Jia reminded him quietly at the side.

"It costs as high as 188 RMB for one serving of Egg Fried Rice and extra 100 RMB for the set meal. Oh my goodness. The same dish is served in our hotel at only 128 RMB. Is your Egg Fried Rice gold?" Li Fang sneered at Zhou Jia.

"Whether you eat or not, it's up to you," Zhou Jia couldn't help but say that.

Other customers such as Ling Hong didn't say anything at the side. It was true that many people were suspicious about the price

at first. However, those who really wanted to eat it would naturally know about the fantastic taste. As for those who didn't, Ling Hong would say it was really great as there would be one less person who snatched the meals.

"Of course I will eat. Don't you think I can afford a serving of Egg Fried Rice?" Li Fang was most familiar with Egg Fried Rice. And it seemed the cheapest main meal was likewise this dish.

Li Fang was clear that the Egg Fried Rice served in his hotel was cooked with the everlasting tribute rice, Wuchang Rice. The taste was incomparably fragrant and sweet and was very popular among the customers. And of course he had once tasted it, which indeed deserved the title of everlasting tribute rice.

"Payment first, please. It's totally 208 RMB." Zhou Jia reached out her hands with a smile, indicating eating only came after payment.

"It's so complicated in a tiny restaurant as to pay first. But where does the 20 RMB come from?" Li Fang frowned.

"It's the seat charge, 20 RMB for each," Zhou Jia explained with a standard smile.

"Here you are." Li Fang took out the right amount of 208 RMB and handed them directly to her.

"Thank you. Your dish will soon be served." Zhou Jia received the

money and directly put them into a plate inside the countertop after she counted.

Yuan Zhou would naturally take the money and pour it into the cash box when it was convenient for him.

One serving of Egg Fried Rice was quite an easy work to Yuan Zhou. Therefore, Zhou Jia carried it out very soon. It only took about 3 minutes max.

"Anyway, the dish is served quickly." Li Fang muttered before he lowered his head.

Then, he felt that he should change his name to Three Surprises in One Single Day.

As the head chef of the cold dish department, he knew quite well about the technical content of Golden Fried Rice. And the one in front of him right now was apparently that very dish.

He raised the head and took a look at Yuan Zhou in surprise before he started to scoop it up into his mouth.

The fragrance of Egg Fried Rice filled his mouth instantly as if all fragrance was locked up in the rice and only exploded when it entered the mouth. The egg was fragrant and sweet without any underlying bad smell while the rice grains were moderately hard with a hint of chewiness. Moreover, it wasn't so sticky to the teeth as Wuchang Rice.

"Peng", it was the sound of the spoon touching the bottom of the plate. Li Fang pushed the fried rice on top aside excitedly and found there was indeed not any oil on the plate, which was still as clean as a new one.

"It's surprisingly the Golden Fried Rice."

As far as Li Fang knew, there were two major characteristics of the Golden Fried Rice. One was that every rice grain had to be perfectly wrapped by the egg liquid and the other was that there can't be any oil over the bottom of the plate. Only by maintaining the cleanliness of the bottom of the plate could the fried rice taste incomparably refreshing.

"It's even tastier than Wuchang Rice." Unwilling to believe that, Li Fang took another mouthful of the rice and then couldn't help eating one more bite. Just like that, a plate of fried rice was eaten up in no more than 7 or 8 minutes.

"Why is it so little?" Having eaten up the dish, Li Fang complained subconsciously.

Once the word was spoke, he found he had been conquered by the top-notch dish.

"Boss, you really have superb culinary skills. I'm convinced now." Having sat there for a while, Li Fang suddenly stood up and said that loudly.

Only then did he draw the attention of the customers beside him. They turned the head and looked toward him one after another.

After saying that, however, Li Fang walked out of the restaurant in big strides without turning his head back, like a warrior.

The customers at the side became dumbfounded and so did Zhou Jia. Only Yuan Zhou was staring at Li Fang's back with a serious manner.

"Do you know him? Is he here to challenge you?" asked Ling Hong curiously.

"Well...." Yuan Zhou thought for a while very carefully and then said, "What's his name?"

"..." Ling Hong suddenly felt he had nothing to respond to him. Others came to challenge you, how would he know his name?

What's more, Yuan Zhou appeared so serious although he didn't know the man. Ling Hong had thought he missed a good play and it was almost the collective complaint of every customer.

After the astonishment, Zhou Jia let out a sigh of relief. She knew Li Fang had very strong self-respect as well as male chauvinism and therefore, he presumably wouldn't ask her to change the job anymore. After all, Yuan Zhou's culinary skills were far better than his.

No. They were absolutely not of a same level.

Chapter 266: Incipient Tendency for Mission Completion

"Everybody, do you have any request for this tiny restaurant?" Yuan Zhou suddenly asked on his own initiative.

"Request? Boss Yuan, I'm not blaming you, but your Chinese is much too poor." Hearing Yuan Zhou's word, Ling Hong said with a tone of contempt.

"Yes, it's indeed a request. Do you have any?" Yuan Zhou asked seriously.

"I don't have requests. But can I make a suggestion?" Ling Hong covered his forehead and said with a helpless look.

"A request is a request and a suggestion is a suggestion," Yuan Zhou explained primly.

"Ho Ho. Of course I know that and that's exactly why I want you to say advice instead of request." Ling Hong suddenly felt that Yuan Zhou might as well cook only. Communication seemed to be way too difficult for him to learn.

"Everybody, please tell me directly if you have any request." Yuan Zhou straightforwardly neglected the annoying guy, Ling Hong, this time.

What a joke. It was the best occasion that he thought of for collecting requests of opening branch restaurants. Of course he had likewise organized the utterance by himself.

Ling Hong then choked. Other customers at the side had already been used to similar scenes and some even snickered while covering the mouth.

Every time somebody choked due to Yuan Zhou, they would have a weird pleasant sensation with the precondition that it wasn't himself.

"Could you provide a little more amount for each dish?" Asked a customer naively.

"This restaurant is equally honest with aged and child customers. And the amount has no difference from that served by other restaurants," said Yuan Zhou seriously in response to this question.

"Yeah, of course, we know. It is because Boss Yuan cooks so well and we feel the amount is too little." The customers were likewise quite skilled in praising others. Once the words were uttered, Yuan Zhou felt rather happy.

"Thank you for your compliments. What you just said indeed makes sense, but the amount will be maintained unchanged." Yuan Zhou first expressed his gratitude and then refused the request of the customers.

"Boss Yuan, you are so proficient in the practice of getting moved and then refusing others." The customer appeared fairly speechless.

"Humm, you are welcome," said Yuan Zhou naturally.

"I think it's better to make some requests that are easier to reach. Of course, Boss Yuan, you have to tell us first if you will close the door after you collect them." Ling Hong made a constructive suggestion this time while stroking the chin.

"No, I won't. I'm just collecting the requests from you." There was no other expression on Yuan Zhou's solemn face.

"You sure?" Ling Hong didn't have much confidence in Yuan Zhou concerning his moral integrity.

"Yes." Yuan Zhou nodded the head and anticipated very much that he could collect some requests.

Then he checked the progress status of the mission completion conveniently. ----

[Main Mission] To become a regional gourmet representative (uncompleted)

(Mission tips: Being a minor celebrity can no longer satisfy your wild ambition. You must become a regional representative within one calendar month. Young man, I have faith in you.)

[Mission reward] To get promoted by one level up; one chance to draw lottery; an upgrade reward.

(Reward tips: for such a great reward, young man, go and endeavor to get it.)

"I'm afraid this mission can only be completed after the side mission," thought Yuan Zhou silently.

As for the side mission, it was smoother. He had completed parts of the mission by then.

[Side Mission] To collect 100 requests to open branch restaurants (uncompleted)

(Mission tips: one couldn't be regarded as a master chef if no one applies for a branch restaurant.)

[Mission status] 28/100

[Mission Reward] A recipe of Dongpo Pig Knuckle

(Reward tips: a main course of Sichuan Cuisines, a must-have dish for a master chef.)

Seeing the reward, Yuan Zhou suddenly had a feeling of being moved. Men were all carnivores. For example, what Yuan Zhou

often ate recently was the dish of Translucent Beef Slices.

"You can tell me your requests now." Yuan Zhou revealed an earnest expression, indicating that he would listen to them carefully.

"You guys speak and I will listen," Yuan Zhou supplemented while processing the food materials.

Then, he received a succession of weird requests.

For example, "Boss Yuan, could you build a toilet? We wait for so long every day." There were three physical needs that people couldn't evade. The customer indicated that it was likewise very important.

"This restaurant is small, so I am unable to provide the toilet temporarily," answered him again.

"Boss Yuan, can you treat me to a meal?" a young girl asked boldly.

"No." Yuan Zhou stared at her and refused bluntly. These cunning guys turned out to take this opportunity to

cheat his money

"..." The girl then became silent.

"Tsk-tsk. No wonder you have no girlfriend," said Ling Hong, being delightful in the misfortunes of others.

"You should think this way. If Boss Yuan has a girlfriend, she will naturally stroll around the streets and go shopping with him. What shall we do then?" another customer said lightly at Ling Hong's ears.

"Damn it. That's absolutely true. Boss Yuan, it's good for you to be single. It's healthy and environmental-friendly," immediately, another customer chimed in.

"I can provide toilet paper."

"Two rolls."

"I think Boss Yuan won't find a girlfriend so easily in a short time. So don't worry about that." while stroking his chin, Ling Hong considered for a while and then said.

All the dialogues were heard by Yuan Zhou, but he didn't take them seriously. He always believed that his EQ, craftsmanship and income were all very high. And so was his appearance when he wasn't smiling. He was definitely the ideal Mr. Right for girls.

The father of modern psychology, Adler, once said that someone that praised himself everyday would become a perfect person.

Alright. This sentence was also made up by Yuan Zhou himself. However, he was quite faithful to that.

For the whole night, Yuan Zhou had collected only one weird request, not as satisfactory as he imagined.

However, at a place that Yuan Zhou had no idea of, some people were getting together and preparing to savor the dishes in Yuan Zhou's restaurant. After all, the dishes were said to be awfully miraculous on the internet.

These people came to this city for both tours and delicacies.

They totally conformed to Yuan Zhou's requirements. First, they came from other places; then, they loved delicacies. However, Yuan Zhou had no idea of that at that moment. What attracted him then was at the door.

"Good evening, Boss Yuan." A young girl dressed in an orange-yellow sanitation worker's uniform greeted at Yuan Zhou.

"Hi. You are early today." Yuan Zhou nodded the head.

It was break time before the pub was to be opened. Standing at the door, Yuan Zhou was seen and greeted.

"Yes, I volunteered to help others do the cleaning today so that I can earn some more money." On the tan face of the girl revealed obvious delight.

"Ok. How are the Chinese knots that I troubled you to weave?" Yuan Zhou knew that the girl was also selling handicrafts as her part-time job while doing the cleaning.

"Don't worry, Boss Yuan. They'll be finished soon." while collecting the trash carefully, the girl answered.

"Sorry to bother you." Yuan Zhou nodded his head.

"I should thank you for ordering so many products." Hearing Yuan Zhou's word, the girl straightened herself and thanked him earnestly.

"They are to be gifts. Take your time. It's no hurry," said Yuan Zhou without blinking.

"Boss Yuan, your cooking is so good. Now, people on the street are becoming more and more. And even our boss knows our work is becoming more burdensome, hence increased our salary by 50 RMB." With her eyes looking like a crescent moon, the girl seemed happier when she talked about her salary.

"Humm." Yuan Zhou nodded his head lightly.

After only a few words, the girl left while collecting and sweeping the trash.

Nevertheless, Yuan Zhou saw her stop at the corner of the street.

Apart from an inconspicuous black Volkswagen parking there, there was nothing else. Yuan Zhou suddenly remembered that the car had been there for two days. In a little while, however, the girl continued to sweep the trash as if nothing had happened. Yet, it seemed that she worked even more carefully and earnestly.

Yuan Zhou turned around and went back into his restaurant. The girl was Huang Ling. She had once been invited by Yuan Zhou to work as an attendant in his restaurant, but she refused him. Only after that did Yuan Zhou order a batch of big and small Chinese knots. As for the reason, he would send them out as welfare.

As it was known to all that his business was booming, Huang Ling took the order earnestly.

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Chapter 267: Huang Ling's Request

On the early morning of the following day, Yuan Zhou was stopped when he was jogging as usual.

"Boss Yuan, can you do me a favor?" Huang Ling stopped Yuan Zhou straightforwardly with her shadow in the first ray of the morning sun.

"What's the matter?" While jogging in the same place, Yuan Zhou didn't stop exercising.

"It's like this..." Huang Ling then slightly explained to him.

"Reservations are not allowed. Besides, are you sure they will come to eat?" Yuan Zhou was a little curious.

"Yes, they will. Don't worry about that." Huang Ling nodded the head affirmatively.

"Ok. It's a total of 100 RMB only." Yuan Zhou considered for a while and then brought out the price.

"That's not correct, is it?" Huang Ling doubted.

"It's indeed that much," answered Yuan Zhou affirmatively.

"But I remember dishes in your restaurant are very expensive."

Huang Ling didn't really know the exact prices, but she was pretty sure they were very expensive. After all, she frequently swept the floor along this street.

"I'm the boss. The first three can enjoy discounts today," said Yuan Zhou solemnly.

"Boss Yuan, I don't wish for you to do so." Huang Ling lowered her head and got a little unhappy.

"Humm. Every time I have a good mood, I will offer discounts. The dish of Honey Tremella is sold at only 1 RMB." Yuan Zhou used an example to illustrate.

After thinking back carefully, Huang Ling realized it was true. Yuan Zhou's restaurant was the star restaurant of the street right now and was even listed on the gourmet map, therefore this 1 RMB event was known to Huang Ling.

"Ok. Thank you, Boss Yuan. But please don't mention me." After an earnest nod, Huang Ling took out a brand-new note of 100 RMB.

"Sure. That's it." Yuan Zhou received the money and put it in his pocket and then continued the morning jog.

"Bye, Boss Yuan." Huang Ling then walked further with the broom and the hand cart filled with trash.

Having jogged for two circles around the side street, Yuan Zhou

returned to his restaurant. He first went to the second floor to wash up and change the informal clothes and then came back to the restaurant. After that, he began to knead the dough and prepared to cook the soup dumplings.

Yuan Zhou cooked while leaving the front door open this time in order to catch sight of Zhou Jia at the first moment she arrived.

Zhou Jia was quite a hard-working girl, who always arrived at the restaurant half an hour earlier every morning and helped to maintain the line.

"Zhou Jia, come here." Yuan Zhou's sound passed to her through the face mask.

"Morning, boss." With a big smile on her face, Zhou Jia appeared quite delighted.

"You are very happy today." Yuan Zhou paused slightly and asked her first.

"Yeah. Thank you for your help. Thank you so much, boss." As soon as she recalled the phone call last night, Zhou Jia felt pleased.

Finally, that cocky Li Fang would no longer entangle her. Having been refused again by Zhou Jia, he agreed not to bother her anymore. Therefore, Zhou Jia became happy ever since last night.

After all, Li Fang not only was a male chauvinist, but also liked

talking to her father and using her father to exert pressure on her, which was totally unacceptable to Zhou Jia.

"Humm. You are welcome." Yuan Zhou nodded the head and appeared as if that was the obvious result.

At the next second, however, he asked, "What's it about?"

"Well..., nothing. I just want to thank you for providing me with such a good job." Zhou Jia hesitated for a while and even wanted to wipe her perspiration.

The way her boss spoke was really odd, but luckily Zhou Jia had gotten used to that. Therefore, she changed to another subject immediately.

"Not at all. Just work earnestly here," Yuan Zhou instructed her carefully.

"Don't worry, boss." Speaking of the work, Zhou Jia was quite serious.

Having heard Zhou Jia's "grievance", Yuan Zhou felt, as a boss, he was really not bad and even knew to care about his staff's spiritual life. Then he began to talk about his proper business with her. Yet, he totally forgot it was he himself who first started the topic.

Of course, Zhou Jia had no idea of that. After all, Yuan Zhou was

talking to her solemnly.

At the other side, three people in the black car likewise stretched themselves. Of them, a man that appeared to be a senior white-collar talked first.

"Ok, let's go to get some breakfast. A moment later, Mouse will take charge over here." The man had a crew cut and was plain-looking. But when he talked, he was, nevertheless, rather decisive.

"That's great. Boss Zhao, you didn't forget what you promised last night, did you?" The younger man on the passenger side leaped up. He was dressed up like a newbie of the workplace.

"Lin Cong, you brat, you rip me off every time." The person who was called Boss Zhao was the one speaking. He said smilingly upon hearing that.

"It's not true. Zheng Xing, you testify for me. Didn't Boss Zhao say that by himself?" Lin Cong turned the head immediately and said to the one seated in the backseat.

The smiling expression of the person made him look like a goody-goody in the workplace who wouldn't give offense to anybody around. But once he talked, it wasn't like that anymore.

"I can testify that. Boss Zhao, I have inquired about that restaurant. Customers need to wait in line for the dishes. Shall we go now?" said Zheng Xing after he opened the car door with a

smile.

"That's corruption. As far as I know, the dishes there are awfully expensive." With a frown, Boss Zhao revealed a look of reluctance to spend the money. Nevertheless, he didn't have any hesitation, but instead opened the door and got off the car following them.

"Come on. We must hurry up, otherwise, we won't get the seats in time." Lin Cong walked faster than the other two. While speaking, he had gone half way.

The three people had three characters that were totally different from each other. But the only thing in common was probably being plain-looking. Basically, none of them could be found if they were thrown into the crowd. Contrarily, Yuan Zhou had a currently popular uncle-style look, especially when he was solemn, although he wasn't really handsome.

Yuan Zhou could more or less catch the eye of the crowd while these three persons were nevertheless like the passers-by on the streets.

The side street wasn't long at all. In just a few minutes, the three people arrived at Yuan Zhou's restaurant in the middle.

Coincidentally, there wasn't anybody inside.

"Please come on in," as soon as Zhou Jia saw the three people, she became delighted and then went up and greeted them.

"Huh. What a coincidence! I'm the first customer." Lin Cong walked into the restaurant excitedly in big strides.

"It's indeed a coincidence," Zhou Jia answered with a smile.

"We have long heard that your restaurant serves extraordinarily delicious dishes, so we are here today with the purpose to have a taste. He is paying," Zheng Xing first complimented Boss Yuan smilingly and then said while pointing at Boss Zhao.

"I'm sorry, but we provide only soup dumplings for breakfast this morning." Zhou Jia reminded.

"How many soup dumplings in each steamer"? Lin Cong looked at the food steamers stacked up over there suspiciously.

"Only one." Zhou Jia kept answering mildly.

"No problem. Get one for me. I'm hungry." With his sharp nose, Zheng Xing smelled a glimmer of the remaining fragrance, thus he directly ordered.

"Alright. One moment, please." Zhou Jia went up and carried the soup dumplings to them.

"Vinegar?" Zhou Jia set down the soup dumplings and then asked.

"Of course. Bring some for me, please," Boss Zhao answered.

Even if he didn't really like vinegar, he still ordered it. He had just seen the surprising price of 66 RMB for each soup dumpling. It would be a loss if he didn't eat it with the vinegar.

"Some vinegar for me, too." Zheng Xing came prepared this time. He had once logged on to the gourmet forum and of course, he would savor the perfect combinations of soup dumpling and the vinegar.

"Tsk-tsk. An adult man surprisingly eats vinegar with soup dumpling?" Only Lin Cong grunted. He couldn't wait to take the chopsticks and prepare to eat.

"It looks so good," Zheng Xing first smelled the fragrance of the vinegar and then looked at the soup dumpling before he said contentedly.

Chapter 268: Warmth of One Serving of Soup Dumpling

Then, the three people started to eat their soup dumplings. Strangely, Zhou Jia didn't charge them beforehand, but just went to serve other customers soon. She was fairly busy during the breakfast time.

"Hurry up. It's the last time we ate this. So expensive," Boss Zhao instructed immediately. Thinking of the price of 66 RMB for each, he felt a severe heartache.

"Thank you, Boss Zhao," Lin Cong and Zheng Xing looked at each other and then said in one voice.

"Now that you guys are thankful to me, eat it up quickly," said Boss Zhao, who felt that it was funny.

"Yes, sir." The two persons agreed at the same time and then looked at the soup dumplings in front of them attentively.

The almost translucent thin skin was wrapping the filling and gravy. When Lin Cong poked it with the chopsticks curiously, the skin of the soup dumpling was only dented slightly. Only then did he said in surprise, "It surprisingly didn't break."

With his carefree character, Lin Cong then picked the soup dumpling up and prepared to stuff it into his mouth.

Having picked it up at the folded part, he saw the soup dumpling directly become an umbrella shape and slightly swayed following his actions, which looked quite interesting.

"This is so funny." Lin Cong was indeed young. He was only 26 and was the youngest one among the three of them. Therefore, he was a little childish.

"Hurry up and eat it. You are way too mischievous," Zheng Xing couldn't endure him anymore, hence straightforwardly said to him.

"Indeed. The taste of the soup dumplings is absolutely extraordinary." Other customers beside them proved it true.

"I know, I know." Lin Cong answered smilingly. Only then did he put the soup dumpling into his mouth and prepared to eat.

The soup dumpling normally had plenty of thick gravy inside. The most elegant way of eating it was usually taking it to the small plate and biting a small opening on the edge, and afterwards, sipping the gravy slowly with a sound of "Slurp". The taste was really incomparably fresh and delicate.

The gravy was the quintessence of a soup dumpling. After the gravy was sipped up and the soup dumpling became slightly hollower, those who liked eating vinegar would pour some celestial vinegar into the soup dumpling and eat them together. The celestial vinegar served in Yuan Zhou's restaurant had a genuine sour taste with a hint of sweetness.

With the filling of marbled pork inside and the chewy dough skin, the soup dumpling basically tasted extraordinarily appetizing. Even if there were ten dumplings, one would have no problem eating them up, let alone only one.

However, the careless guy Lin Cong wouldn't eat that way. Once he picked it up, he started to eat at a gulp and then something tragic happened. "Hiss, hiss, hiss. It's so hot."

He was immediately scalded by the hot gravy. However, as the gravy was much too delicious, he was reluctant to waste even a drop, not to mention that it was his mean superior that was treating.

He had only to hiss due to the scalding gravy and meanwhile enjoyed the superb taste. Even so, he wasn't able to stop eating. It seemed that he was able to bear the hot gravy.

"The taste really deserves the price and is basically not worse than any other food," Zheng Xing sipped the gravy happily and meanwhile didn't forget to praise contentedly.

"It truly is appetizing, but likewise too expensive." When Boss Zhao thought of the payment of 198 RMB later, he felt such a heartache that he almost couldn't breathe.

"Only fine food cannot disappoint." Zheng Xing looked like a goody-goody, nevertheless he didn't show mercy at all while setting others up.

It was him who had proposed having the breakfast in Yuan Zhou's restaurant yesterday. Boss Zhao had quite a good memory about that.

At the other side, Lin Cong straightforwardly drank up the gravy inside of the soup dumpling, without any elegance.

"The way you eat makes you unable to savor the genuine delicacy. If you eat that way, how will you eat the remaining insipid pork and dough skin?" Zheng Xing said with an expression of pity on his face.

The good taste of the soup dumpling could only be better revealed under the condition that it was eaten along with the gravy.

"It's originally a dumpling. Since the gravy tastes so good, the remaining parts are definitely not bad, either." Lin Cong was nevertheless quite confident.

"As you please." Boss Zhao also poured the vinegar leisurely into the soup dumpling and prepared to gulp it down.

With such a high price, he would rather eat it slowly, which was contrary to Lin Cong who ate the soup dumpling like a pig gulping the valuable ginseng fruits.

"I feel it's also tasty to eat it that way." While speaking, Lin Cong

directly swallowed up the entire soup dumpling, of which the gravy had naturally been sipped up.

The size of the dough skin was far bigger than that of the filling. Only in that way could it wrap the plenty amount of the gravy. What Zheng Xing had meant just now was that Lin Cong could savor only the taste of the dough skin in the end if he ate that way since the skin was much bigger.

"Ba Ji, Ba Ji" Lin Cong then started to chew.

After a simple bite, he straightway bit open the oblate filling, from which the gravy burst out right away. Then he chewed it again. The filling was soft, tender, fresh and sweet and besides, had the natural fragrance of pork. Eaten along with the chewy dough skin, it became another different texture.

Zheng Xing's worry about the dull taste of dough skin absolutely didn't come true. It turned out that there was more gravy inside of soup dumpling. The gravy was mixed with the filling. When he bit open the filling, the fresh and delicate taste was then released.

"Yum-yum. So delicious." Lin Cong said with great satisfaction.

"The delicate sour taste increases the appetite while the dough skin was extremely chewy. It's the best, the best of soup dumplings." Zheng Xing set down the chopsticks and revealed an expression of satisfaction.

"Yeah, exactly. It's indeed tasty." Boss Zhao said that rather sincerely this time, although he still felt heartache because of the price. After all, his wife didn't give him much pocket money and after the meal, it reduced by half.

"Check, please, little girl." Lin Cong said proactively. But that was because he didn't pay.

"Your bill has been paid by others," Zhou Jia went up and said courteously.

"Great! I don't need to pay.... Wait, who paid for that?" Boss Zhao first got relieved and then asked with puzzlement.

"Who has paid for the meal?" Lin Cong was startled in his heart, but still asked with puzzlement.

"Yeah, yeah. We don't know anyone here," Zheng Xing looked around for a circle and said affirmatively.

"Don't you know they require payment first before serving the meal?" a customer asked curiously.

"Payment first?" Boss Zhao thought for a while. They were just the first several customers and indeed no one had ever been here prior to them. Who exactly would it be that paid for the meal?

"Boss, is it you?" Lin Cong suddenly looked at Yuan Zhou and asked.

Judging from what he said, he definitely didn't know the famous Compass. Even if the sun rose from the north, it was impossible for Yuan Zhou to treat and offer the meal for free.

"No, not me. I even don't know you guys," Yuan Zhou denied immediately.

"Who else would it be?" Zheng Xing was also curious about that.

"I can't tell you," answered Yuan Zhou straightforwardly.

"You seem to know something." Boss Zhao stared at Yuan Zhou firmly.

"Yes, I know. But I can't tell you," said Yuan Zhou deservedly.

"Then you might as well say you don't know," said Lin Cong in anger.

"Why would I tell lies?" Yuan Zhou asked back with puzzlement.

"Er, well..." Lin Cong choked. Although his dishes were delicious, the boss nevertheless seemed to be a little stupid.

In the end, it was still Yuan Zhou who finally said in a way he himself believed to be kind, "That granny might know something." Yuan Zhou signaled to them the granny who was selling the

steamed buns outside the restaurant.

Then the three people stood up and left. Of course, Yuan Zhou kept the secret as he had promised. For example, he didn't tell them that half of the meal was paid by him. After all, there wasn't any discount for this dish right now.

Due to some special reasons, the three people needed to know who treated them to the meal. Naturally, they asked the granny about that.

And the granny was just the one that swept the ground at Yuan Zhou's entrance early every morning, hence she heard Yuan Zhou talk with the girl earlier in the morning. And because of her work, she indeed knew Huang Ling.

"It's a girl called Huang Ling who treats you guys to the meal. She's a hardworking girl and also does the cleaning in this street," the granny said candidly.

"Thank you. Do you know where she lives?" asked Zheng Xing carefully.

"In the building over there," the granny said that while pointing at the opposite direction of their car.

"No problem," said Lin Cong with a low voice. After that, Boss Zhao thanked the granny again and again and brought the other two away.

"Do we need to check the matter?" asked Zheng Xing.

"No need. It's just a small case. We have more important work to do now," Boss Zhao smoothed his knitted brows and then said.

"The soup dumplings today made me feel fairly warm," Lin Cong sighed with emotion.

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Chapter 269: Yuan Zhou's Petty Trick

When breakfast time almost ended, Yuan Zhou let Zhou Jia bring out a box. Even before the box was set down, the customers couldn't wait to ask.

"Boss Yuan, are you prepared to provide a new kind of liquor?" a customer craned his neck and asked.

"I think so, too. What liquor is it this time and how much will you provide at a time?" This customer cared more about the amount of the liquor.

"The box is apparently used for drawing lottery. And there are definitely only three pots every day," a man dressed in sportswear said affirmatively.

"That indeed makes sense. Then what's the liquor this time?" Everything that was newly served in Yuan Zhou's restaurant drew much attention.

"It's not liquor, but actually a suggestion box," Yuan Zhou pointed to the three big characters written on the box quietly and then said earnestly.

"I know that. Boss Yuan has been collecting suggestions these few days. Does he want us to write the suggestions down and put it inside?" said Sportswear naturally as if the previous guess were not made by him.

"Everybody could tell me about your suggestions during the non-business hours. For those who have written it down, please also tell me first before you put it inside. And those who don't want to write it can tell me directly." It was rare for Yuan Zhou to utter such a long sentence.

"Since we can directly tell you, why do we write it down?" The customers were all puzzled.

"Your choice will be fully respected that way," Yuan Zhou thought for a while and then said earnestly.

"Well...." The customers instantly became speechless.

Now that you have respected our choice, why would we have to tell you first before we put the suggestion inside? If so, it likewise meant that we had only one choice. Looking at the suggestion box, the customers all became speechless.

"Business hours have ended. You may start now." Yuan Zhou was very expectant in the heart as it was the best idea that he could think of.

With the specific purpose, coherent logic and speaking before suggesting, he could collect the required requests more quickly. Yuan Zhou made a thumbs-up gesture to himself quietly in the heart.

The crowd was lost in silence for a while. Then, a young girl asked, "Boss Yuan, does the suggestion of opening branch restaurants count?"

"Yes, sure. Please tell me." The corner of his mouth inconspicuously went up by 1cm.

"I wish your business can get much better in future so that you can open many branch restaurants." The girl didn't give her suggestion in an ordinary manner.

"Thank you," Yuan Zhou fell silent doubtfully for a while and the said seriously.

"You are welcome." Not knowing any of Yuan Zhou's slight sorrow, the young girl left cheerfully.

Yuan Zhou felt he needed to check if the blessing counted as a request. After all, a blessing wasn't a genuine request.

[Side Mission] To collect 100 requests to open branch restaurants (uncompleted)

(Mission tips: one couldn't be regarded as a master chef if no one applies for a branch restaurant.)

[Mission status] 28/100

[Mission Reward] A recipe of Dongpo Pig Knuckle

(Reward tips: a main course of Sichuan Cuisines, a must-have dish for a master chef.)

Just as was expected, the system didn't let him down. The progress of the mission still didn't change at all.

While stroking his forehead, Yuan Zhou thought very carefully if it would have an effect to summon her back now. After all, if he could collect another request successfully, he could then be nearer to the reward dish of Dongpo Pig Knuckle.

Just in a short moment, however, Yuan Zhou gave up the alluring idea of summoning her back, as the young girl had walked farther from them. Of course, it wasn't because of the matter of his reputation.

"Boss Yuan, I think you should try to improve your restaurant's popularity," a man who was dressed in a well-tailored suit suggested earnestly.

"Don't listen to him bullshitting. I think you are doing very well right now." Not long after the man had barely said that, his voice was overwhelmed by that of other customers.

The several customers were divided into two groups. One told Yuan Zhou that the popularity of the restaurant was great while the other just dragged the man in suit away and went to educate

him.

"Be cautious about your words, man. What a bad suggestion that is! If there are more people, do you think you can still get a seat soon?" said Sportswear bitterly.

"Boss Yuan opens the restaurant for only 9 hours every day, 1 hour for breakfast, 2 hours for lunch, 3 hours for dinner and 3 hours for the pub. For the breakfast, he only provides 100 soup dumplings including 4 for himself to eat, hence usually there are 96 left for us. When the people increase, where do you think your seat and meal will be?" Another customer reported Yuan Zhou's detailed business time very carefully.

After he said that, the man in suit suddenly reacted, "Stop. I know now. I will make another suggestion."

"Boss Yuan, I think you should lengthen the business time." Having been reminded of the time over and over, the man then said conveniently.

"Not for now," Yuan Zhou answered seriously.

"Then you can open a branch restaurant and also make the business time 9 hours." The man in suit then suggested.

"Sir, there are only 24 hours per day." Looking at the updated mission progress contentedly, Yuan Zhou didn't forget to remind him.

"Well, that's right. Please serve some more dishes." The man in suit then proposed another seemingly reliable idea.

"Sure, I will." Only then did Yuan Zhou nod the head affirmatively.

"Is the dish of Honey Tremella still to be served at 1 RMB next time?" This was Ma Zhida who stuck to the dishes that he hadn't savored.

"That depends." Yuan Zhou was prepared to shake the phone again to decide the price next time, thus he wasn't sure which number he could get, either.

"Why?" asked Ma Zhida with curiosity.

"You'll know that when the dish is provided," answered Yuan Zhou with affirmation.

Having answered Ma Zhida, Yuan Zhou continued waiting for the next person. Everyone had a possibility of helping him complete the mission, therefore Yuan Zhou paid special attention to their wording very carefully. He would also carry out his eliciting policy when it was necessary.

While Yuan Zhou was endeavoring to complete the mission over here, Boss Zhao was nevertheless bringing Zheng Xing and Lin Cong back to the police station in another car.

"We are finally back. It's been a tiring night. Boss, when exactly can we finish this case?" Lin Cong threw himself into the chair immediately.

"It won't be long. The snake is coming out of its hideout very soon," said Boss Zhao earnestly. Back in the police station, he wasn't joking with them anymore.

"When?" Zheng Xing also asked seriously.

"The earliest time will be tonight," looking at the two persons, Boss Zhao said with a solemnity in his tone.

"That's wonderful. This tricky venomous snake is eventually to be caught." Lin Cong straightened himself and revealed an expression of relief. The previous manner of a novice was replaced with shrewdness.

"Yes, finally. Anyway, it's worth shadowing him for so long time." Zheng Xing also appeared very happy.

They turned out to be the policemen of the police station. No wonder they were so cautious in the morning yesterday and didn't give up tracing who treated them to the meal until they expelled the threat from Huang Ling. However, the granny's wish failed. The three of them didn't seem prepared to talk about Huang Ling.

Having returned home early, Huang Ling nevertheless knew

nothing about that. She poured the soaked rice into the boiler habitually and then began to cook gruel.

"Elder sister, you just wash up and eat your meal. I have got breakfast prepared already." A person's silhouette staggered out from an inner room. Only when he walked nearer was he found to be a boy with too long hair.

"You got up so early. Why didn't you sleep longer?" Huang Ling took off the hat and wiped the perspiration on her forehead before showing a faint smile.

"I got up early today to do some exercises." The boy was still young and was just in the period of voice changing, so he sounded like a duck.

"Humm. Don't be too tired. This sister can support you now." After saying that, Huang Ling walked into the narrow and small bathroom and started to wash up.

Not until the sound of the flowing water passed did the silent boy say, "Thank you."

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Chapter 270: Family Background of Huang Ling

In a short moment, Huang Ling changed into her house clothes and came to the narrow kitchen before carrying the gruel out from the oven.

"Come and have breakfast, Xiao Li." Huang Ling said and then carried a small plate of pickled vegetables.

"Ok. Don't we have cowpea?" The boy looked at the radishes on the plate and revealed a manner of dislike.

"We still have to wait another day to eat the cowpea and can only eat it tomorrow. If you don't like the radishes, you can eat some preserved vegetables." Huang Ling took out half a package of preserved vegetables.

"Never mind. Let's eat the radishes." Xiao Li sat down, but he didn't eat the preserved vegetables.

"Ok. I will cook the egg flower soup with preserved vegetables for lunch." Huang Ling put away the preserved vegetables and comforted him.

"Great. Thank you, sister." On the pale and emaciated face of Xiao Li revealed a smile.

"You are welcome. I will take a nap in the moment. You can go out and walk around. It's quite a sunny day today." Huang Ling was eating and saying while she was looking at the expression of Xiao Li with care.

"Sure, I will." Xiao Li ceased to smile and answered with a low voice.

"Let's get down to eating." Huang Ling heaved a sigh in the heart. Without showing her feelings, she said mildly.

The atmosphere at the dining table was warm and quiet. The sister and brother behaved very well at the dining table, not making any sounds while eating.

After the meal, they chatted for a while. Seeing Xiao Li have a good mood, Huang Ling then went to rest reassuringly. The overnight labor made her fall asleep very quickly and just in a little while her even breaths were heard.

Only then did Xiao Li bring out the phone and play an online game in the badly lighted room. The long fringes covered his face, making him appear gloomier. With the light of the phone shining on his face, even his fine hair was clearly seen, which made him appear to be thinner and weaker.

The nap lasted until midday. Having an exact biological clock, Huang Ling woke up by herself. After she got up and cleared her head for a moment, she began to put on her clothes and clean the room before preparing to cook lunch.

It was a small flat with two bedrooms, without the living room. The kitchen and bathroom were all neat and the two bedrooms were of different sizes. Having failed in persuading her brother to change the room, Huang Ling lived in the larger room. Luckily, there was a big window in the smaller room and hence it appeared to have the most luminous beam.

"Zhi Ya", Huang Ling opened the door and saw Xiao Li doing the leg exercises alone there. She revealed a smile on the face and went to the kitchen after closing the door lightly.

She took out some thawed meat from the preservation box of the fridge and then an egg and some chives. These were to be the dishes for lunch.

While Huang Ling was cooking the lunch, Yuan Zhou had likewise started his business hours at noon after he had mastered the new skills and completed the mission.

When it was bustling at the front door due to the long line, a crowd of 20 or 30 young people, men and women, headed directly for Yuan Zhou's restaurant.

From a distance, their words were clearly heard.

"What did I say? We can definitely find the place according to the gourmet map. See, here we are. The one having the most people waiting in line is definitely the restaurant," a lively girl said happily.

"Ya Ya, you are awesome. Great at finding the way." Following the lively girl, a mature woman praised her.

"Thanks, Sister Wan. It's a pretty nice place. With the quiet surrounding, it's indeed like one that has a talented master beyond the noisy world." The girl called Ya Ya said delightedly while she was looking at Yuan Zhou's restaurant from a distance.

"I heard the dishes are too damn expensive. We just don't know if the taste is as good as is described." This was a person who was worried about the dishes.

"Yeah, you are right. The dumplings we ate yesterday in another restaurant tasted way too bad." Another complaint followed closely.

"It supposedly won't happen to this one. Those restaurants have developed into brand chain restaurants, so of course the taste of the dishes changed," a young person who seemed to know this industry said directly.

"Look at the long line. I'm pretty sure now they are delicious." Looking at the long line at the entrance of Yuan Zhou's restaurant, the woman called Sister Wan said faintly. She wore denim shorts and a white shirt with her hair tied, seeming to be a mature woman.

"Damn it. We have to line up again." Some other person began to complain.

Luckily that they had all reviewed the forum and gourmet map and hence had sufficient patience.

As a result, the line got much longer immediately and formed into three rows.

The three people of the police station were so tired that they immediately took a nap at the table. Since they were unable to go back home at this time of day, they had only to make do with their sleepiness.

"I feel better now. What shall we eat for lunch?" Lin Cong woke up first and straightway woke the other two persons.

"Whatever." With a look of solemnity, Boss Zhao seemed to have gotten up on the dark side of the bed.

"What about that restaurant?" Zheng Xing became excited.

"Ok." "No." Lin Cong and Boss Zhao said with one voice, but the words were contrary to each other.

"Why?" Zheng Xing and Lin Cong spoke with one voice this time.

"Our target is not far away. We'll probably expose ourselves if we go there too frequently, so we should reduce the frequency of appearing there," Boss Zhao considered for a while and then said

seriously.

"I think our Boss is just stingy." Out of the working hours, Lin Cong always showed no sufficient respect to his seniors.

"Humm. Boss Zhao, I will believe that you aren't stingy if you offer a triumphal feast there later." Zheng Xing revealed a big smile of honesty.

"As a policeman, how can we get involved in corruption? So let's go to the usual place, our mess room, for lunch." Boss Zhao made the final decision.

"But..." Lin Cong still wanted to say something, but was stopped by Boss Zhao directly.

"Speaking of which, I always feel the name of Huang Ling is so familiar. Do you guys have the same feeling?" Boss Zhao changed the subject primly.

"Yes, I have a little memory of that. I wanted to tell you in the morning, but I forgot." Speaking of that, Lin Cong also felt the same and hence chimed in.

"It might be a case that we have dealt with before?" said Zheng Xing with uncertainty.

"When you check the folder about this case in a little while, you can trace that name and try to get some useful information," Boss

Zhao instructed.

"Yes, sir. I'm going right now, otherwise we'll lose time again," Zheng Xing answered with a nod.

For vaguely familiar names, Zheng Xing had a fairly good memory despite his plain look. He approximately remembered it was a case about one year ago, therefore he mostly looked up the materials of the latest one year while checking the folder.

No long after, Zheng Xing took the folder and went back to the office.

"What's wrong? Look at your depressed look." Asked Lin Cong curiously.

The case in the folder was basically known to them. What was it that made the smiling tiger (symbolizing an outwardly kind but inwardly cruel person), Zheng Xing, so serious?

"Boss, look at this." Zheng Xing took out some thin pages of the folder and handed them to Boss Zhao directly.

"Alright. Let me have a look." Boss Zhao was looking at the deployment diagram. When he heard Lin Cong shout, he received the folder and put it aside first.

"Let me check." Lin Cong then took the several pages in his hands.

The several pages were truly not much, thus Lin Cong likewise finished quickly. Then, he straightway shouted in surprise, "So it is this case. That's way too weird."

Only then did Boss Zhao, who was immersed in details of the deployment diagram, got awakened by their talk.

"What's the matter with you guys?" Boss Zhao was quite puzzled.

"Boss, you'll know that after you check the pages." Lin Cong handed the folder to him solemnly.

5 minutes later, Boss Zhao heaved a sigh, "It turns out to be this girl. She seems to be having a better time now."

"But the behavior in the morning today was way too strange," answered Zheng Xing softly.

"Indeed. Let's draw the net in tonight and go to visit her tomorrow. Then, everything will be clear," Boss Zhao also said with a depressed voice.

Actually, the folder only recorded the family background of Huang Ling. But her background and her deeds in the morning were nevertheless not in harmony...

Chapter 271: Side Mission Completed

It was clearly recorded in the folder that Huang Ling had a younger brother. Due to a home invasion robbery about one year ago, their parents were both killed by the gangster.

This case took place at somewhere in this jurisdiction area of the countryside of Chengdu and once caused a great sensation. When the policemen went to confront the gangster at that time, however, the extremely ferocious gangster murdered one of them.

At the end of the vicious case, the gangster was shot dead on the spot and the younger brother of Huang Ling was injured in the leg. He was originally a municipal level sportsman, but after his hamstring was wounded, he couldn't walk normally like before, let alone participating in the sports.

Rumor had it that the boy quit school eventually and his elder sister Huang Ling moved out of that place with him.

Seeing the family background, other people could naturally understand why the three people were so surprised.

"Time to make preparations." Lin Cong reminded and awakened Boss Zhao.

"Humm. You make some preparations, too. That snake is rather tricky." Boss Zhao adjusted his depressed mood and instructed the other two guys to prepare for the move as well as reminding them of great care.

He must lay other matters aside temporarily as work mattered the most.

At the other side, the people who came especially also got their turn in Yuan Zhou's restaurant.

"It's such a long line. Almost one hour has passed." Ya Ya felt she was nearly scorched due to the bright sun.

The sun in September of Chengdu was not that gentle.

"Exactly. My face also turned red from the sun." Sister Wan complained, too.

"Here. I have wet wipes for you pretty girls." The man who was dressed in a short-sleeve shirt handed a package of well-sealed wet wipes smilingly.

"Thanks, but I have mine." Sister Wan refused with a smile and then took out her own facial tissue.

At the side, Ya Ya didn't care much about that. She was so hot that her medium-long hair was pasted on the neck.

"Hi, there. You can enter the restaurant and have the meal now." While they were wiping the perspiration, Zhou Jia greeted with a smile.

"Alright." Sister Wan dragged Ya Ya into the restaurant after the perspiration was wiped.

Normally, people would quiver in the cold air when they suddenly got into the air-con room from a hot place. If there was perspiration on the face, they would probably have a headache. Therefore, Sister Wan dragged Ya Ya and entered the restaurant with her after the perspiration was gone.

It was like two different worlds in and out the door. The three people who had barely entered the restaurant deeply experienced the meaning of the sentence.

"What kind of cold air is it? It's not only very cool, but also feels so comfortable." The man in the shirt was fairly surprised.

"Indeed. It's surprisingly neither hot nor cold. How miraculous!" Ya Ya turned the head and looked around.

"This small place is contrarily like Kun Ming where the climate is mild," Sister Wan said with a smile.

"You are right. Normally, we are supposed to feel cold in the air-conditioned room before feeling cool. But it's pleasantly cool in this small restaurant. I just feel comfortable now." Ya Ya got seated contentedly.

"Just for the sake of the air-conditioner, it's worth a visit." The

man in the shirt also sighed with emotion.

"What do you three want to eat? The dishes are all written on the wall behind you," Zhou Jia only uttered after they finished sighing.

Customers who came for the first time were always like that. They were quite curious about the air-conditioner in Yuan Zhou's restaurant, but soon they would get attracted by the foods. That was the charm of Yuan Zhou's craftsmanship.

The three people turned their heads at the same time. Even if they had mentally prepared, they were still startled by the price. However, a serving of Clear Broth Noodle Soup could be somewhat afforded. Naturally, the rules on the wall were likewise like that described on the forum. Then, they became more confident in the taste of the dishes.

After all, they were so expensive and yet, so many people were waiting in line for them. The taste would be definitely very nice.

"One serving of Egg Fried Rice Set, plus a dish of Steamed Tofu with Minced Pork." Ya Ya ordered two dishes unreservedly.

"Clear Broth Noodle Soup and Sautéed Vermicelli with Spicy Minced Pork." Sister Wan appeared more restrained. She felt it would be just good for her to match the spicy dish with a not spicy one.

She had heard the Egg Fried Rice was all flavored with chili in

this city, like the dumplings they had eaten the day before. Hence, she chose two safe dishes.

"Translucent Beef Slices. What's this 100 Styles of Rice Cuisine?" Asked the man in the shirt with curiosity.

"It stands for 100 cooking ways of the rice that you know about, for example, the Soy Sauce Fried Rice. The dish had to be cooked with the rice as the main ingredient and other flavorings as the accessory ingredient only. It's available for one order every time," Zhou Jia explained in details carefully.

"Then, get me the plain white rice and translucent beef slices." The man in the shirt was fairly conservative. He chose the plain white rice that had no changes.

"Ok. Please pay first." Zhou Jia calculated the price respectively and reported to them one by one.

Since they all ordered the dishes as per the thickness of their wallets, the three people paid the money with readiness.

While carrying the dishes out to others, Yuan Zhou got to know immediately that they were new customers. Judging from the gentle and soft Mandarin Chinese that they spoke, he knew they were from the south.

"For a visit here, more specifically, for delicacies." The sentence suddenly flashed in Yuan Zhou's mind.

"Boss, the dishes of the three people are..." Zhou Jia repeated once carefully to Yuan Zhou.

"Humm. One moment, please." Yuan Zhou answered with a nod.

"The boss, as described, truly reveals a manner of good-uncle and moreover looks elegant," Ya Ya supported her face and then said happily.

"The face is only average, but his aura is really nice." Sister Wan evaluated Yuan Zhou positively.

"He's not as handsome as me," The man in suit concluded bluntly.

Yuan Zhou saw the opportunity to complete the mission at the sight of the three people. Therefore, he specially confirmed his speculation when he carried the dishes to them.

"You are from southern regions and don't eat spicy foods. So I didn't put any chili in the dish." As a nice boss, he would naturally bring his considerate deeds out. If not, who would know that? So Yuan Zhou set down the dishes ordered by Sister Wan personally.

"Boss, how do you know that? I just wanted to ask if the dish of Sautéed Vermicelli with Spicy Minced Pork has chili inside." Sister Wan looked at the two dishes in front of her in surprise.

Normally, Clear Broth Noodle Soup definitely had no chili. Even if the Sautéed Vermicelli with Spicy Minced Pork was spicy, she could eat it with the bland noodles. As for the Jinling dishes on the menu, wouldn't it be strange to eat her hometown dishes in other places?

"Because I'm the chef," said Yuan Zhou seriously.

"Boss, you are so lovable." Sister Wan didn't like teasing others. But when she heard the prim answer from Yuan Zhou, she couldn't help but smile and then said.

"Yes. He is not only lovable, but also cooks pretty good dishes." With a full mouth of the Egg Fried Rice, Ya Ya also couldn't help praising him verbally, with a lisp.

"Thank you." Yuan Zhou just waited there for the next utterance silently.

Everything comes to him who waits. As expected, Ya Ya finally came out with the words that Yuan Zhou had been longing for. And naturally, Sister Wan and the man in the short-sleeve shirt at the side likewise chimed in her.

Yuan Zhou nodded the head in mind and affirmed his scheme, "His idea truly works well."

In the evening, Yuan Zhou smoothly received many more tourists that didn't come in the daytime and thus the mission was

almost finished. Meanwhile, Boss Zhao and his fellows likewise took actions smoothly and completed the roundup operation.

Everybody had a sound sleep that night.

Early on the next morning, however, the three people of Boss Zhao gathered together.

"I believe the granny must have seen the wrong person. Anyway, it's not likely to be that girl." While walking, Lin Cong gave his opinion.

"So let's go to ask the granny first." Boss Zhao rolled his eyes to Lin Cong for his superfluous words.

"We should. Under such circumstances, it would be great if she doesn't hate us. How is it possible that she treated us to the meal?" Zheng Xing revealed a look of disbelief, too.

"It's truly not possible. After all, the meal wasn't cheap at all." Thinking of the price, Boss Zhao likewise started to doubt if the girl had treated them by mistake

He had reasons to doubt that. As the police, they had seen such things a lot. The victims always had to find something to vent their anger in similar tragedies and the policemen who took charge of the very case were believed to be the best option for them to do so.

Chapter 272: Thank You, Even If the Result Isn't Satisfactory

The granny's home was not difficult to find. The three people of Boss Zhao soon arrived at the outside of her house. As Zheng Xing looked like a nice goody-goody, he went up to knock the door with a carton of milk in his hand.

"Hello. Granny, are you home?" Zheng Xing asked mildly.

"Who's that?" The granny answered at the other side of the thin door.

"It's us, granny. We want to ask you about something," Zheng Xing said softly.

"Have we met before?" The granny opened a crack and looked outside.

"Yes, we have. Did you forget?" With a faint smile, Zheng Xing pointed to himself and the other two persons.

Seeing the granny still appeared puzzled, Lin Cong said hurriedly, "Oops. Over there at the entrance of the restaurant, we asked you about something. Do you remember now?"

"Oh, yes. We met at the little boss's restaurant." The granny was suddenly enlightened and only then did she open the door

following a sound of "Zhi Ya".

"Yes, right over there." Zheng Xing nodded the head repeatedly right away.

"What can I do for you?" The granny came straight to the point.

Since the several young men were neither relatives nor friends and besides brought her gifts, they definitely had something to ask. So the granny asked directly.

"Last time you told us it was a girl who treated us to the meal, right?" Zheng Xing asked tentatively.

After all, he wasn't sure if the granny still had that in her memory.

"Oh, yes. It's that girl, Huang Ling. The girl works earnestly and diligently and is also a warm-hearted person." Speaking of Huang Ling, the granny revealed a kind smile.

"Do you know if Huang Ling has a younger brother that is disabled in the leg?" asked Lin Cong hurriedly.

"Do you even know that?" The granny was first surprised and then explained to herself, "That makes sense. Since she treated you guys to the meal, you definitely know each other."

"Did they move here from Liujia Town and now live at the end of the Taoxi Road?" Boss Zhao considered for a while and asked about their address.

"Do you know the girl or not?" The granny then became a little suspicious and hence didn't answer Boss Zhao's question directly.

"Yes. She has a younger brother called Huang Li. We indeed know her," Boss Zhao said in a low voice.

"Yes, you are right. What's the matter?" The granny was fairly warm-hearted.

"Are you sure what she wanted to treat was to we three people?" Zheng Xing pointed themselves and asked with an incredible tone.

"Who else could it be? The girl even stopped the little boss specially and talked a long time with him," the granny said with an affirmative tone.

"That little boss is likewise a person of principles. He first said reservation wasn't available. But after Huang Ling said something, he finally agreed. Luckily you went there earlier, otherwise you would have broken his rules." The granny was partial to Huang Ling and Yuan Zhou.

"Thank you. Please accept our gift. We are leaving." Zheng Xing was slightly absent-minded. He lowered the head and then saw the milk was still in his hand. Only then did he carry the carton up and

say to the granny.

"You are welcome. It was merely several words." The granny didn't even have time to decline the gift before they left together.

Looking at the back of the three people and then the milk, she muttered to herself, "It's supposed to be something good."

After leaving, the three people kept silent all the way. Only after some distance, Lin Cong asked, "Boss, so...?"

"Let's go to visit her." Boss Zhao made the decision.

"Ok. You decide." Zheng Xing echoed.

"Is it really true?" Lin Cong could still remember the appalling scene of the case, therefore he felt it rather incredible.

They experienced the similar encounters for more than one time under the same condition. Whenever they failed in a rescue operation, the family members of the victim would give them no good word although they didn't argue and quarrel with the police like the scene on TV shows or go to strike them. As for treating them to meals, it was absolutely impossible.

"Don't guess anymore. We'll know that after we get there." Boss Zhao frowned. Obviously, he couldn't get it clear, either.

It truly made people curious. It wasn't that they liked being mistreated, but that they had encountered this situation far too many times and thus didn't dare to believe it happened to them to be contrarily entertained.

The distance wasn't really far. Besides, they were anxious to get there and hence walked quickly. Just in a little while, they got to the residential building where Huang Ling's home was. After checking the folder, they knew the sister and brother were living on the second floor right now.

"Here we are, Boss." Zheng Xing reminded.

"Let's go upstairs." Boss Zhao took the lead in going upstairs.

"Da Da Da", the footsteps of the three people were precisely the same.

When they arrived at the door, Lin Cong sighed silently and then said, "Let me knock the door."

"Is there anybody in?" he straightway knocked the door lightly and asked politely.

"Who?" A low and husky male voice passed to them. The man sounded to be young.

"Is it Huang Li? I'm Officer Lin." Lin Cong didn't conceal his identity. After a slight hesitation, he said directly.

"Hua La", the door was opened straightforwardly. At the door stood the young boy.

He wasn't tall. The gloomy aura passed from all over his body and the overlong hair almost covered his eyes, with his face snowy white. He didn't seem to be friendly while looking at them.

"What's the matter?" Asked Huang Li straightforwardly, not intending to invite them into the house to take a seat.

"Is your elder sister at home?" Boss Zhao went up and asked. He had been quite used to such treatment, which should have been the mildest kind.

He had also encountered many occasions when people come up and beat the policemen bluntly. After all, the family members of the victim were all severely wounded.

"Yes, she is. What's the matter?' Huang Li nodded the head and continued asking persistently.

The three people then got stuck and didn't know what to say. Luckily, there passed a soft female voice from inside of the room at that time, "Huang Li, who are there?"

"Three police officers." Huang Li knew his sister's character and hence stepped aside and let them in.

"Officer Zhou, Zheng and Lin, why are you all here?" Huang Ling went up and looked at them in surprise.

"Yes. How is your life?" The three people had never received such a placid greeting, thus they didn't know what to say for an instant. Lucky that Boss Zhao was an experienced policeman and hence asked to relieve the embarrassment.

"You look around by yourself." Huang Li sneered at them.

The sentence of "How is your life?" was usually used as an opening remark. But the living environment of the sister and brother were not very bad, yet not good, either. It was a small apartment with two bedrooms. There was neither living room nor dining room. They had meals in the kitchen. At a corner of the room were many red ropes while on the right side hung lots of Chinese knots with different sizes.

"Brother, could you go to check the gruel?" Huang Ling sent her brother away.

Seeing Huang Li shamle away, the three people were lost in silence again.

"Officers, what do you come to me for today?" Compared with her brother, Huang Ling was less cynical. She asked mildly.

"Why did you treat us to that meal?" asked Lin Cong with a look of solemnity.

"I just wanted to thank you. I knew you had just stayed up for a whole night that day." With a mild tone, Huang Ling didn't say anything else.

"Don't you hate us?" Zheng Xing kept silent for a while and then asked.

"Of course not. I should thank you for what you did for us. Really, thank you. Even if it isn't a satisfactory result for me, it's not the good reason not to be grateful. I hate the gangster." Speaking of the gangster, Huang Ling revealed a flash of hatred in the eyes. Looking at the three police officers in front of her, however, she just smiled peacefully.

Even if the result wasn't satisfactory to her, she was still grateful, because the police really did their best. Hearing that, Boss Zhao and the other two stood there stiffly as if they had been hit by the thunderbolt.

"Thank you for the soup dumplings that you bought for us. They are just very delicious," with a complex expression, Boss Zhao stood up and said earnestly at last.

"That's because Boss Yuan cooks well. Those customers all say so." Huang Ling appeared quite happy. She only heard of the impressive taste from others, as she had never eaten any of them. After all, the price of even the cheapest dish was fairly high for them.

"Can you give us some red knots?" Zheng Xin looked at the red knots behind her and then asked.

"Of course. Each of you can take one as my gift." Huang Ling turned the head and saw the red knots that were for sale.

"Thank you." The three people received the red knots with care and put them into their pockets with one accord. After that, they left.

"Take care, officers." Huang Ling stood at the door and waved her hands to them. Thank you, even if the result wasn't so satisfactory.

The three people nodded the head and then turned around and left...

Chapter 273: Moral Quality and Luck

"When will we go to eat the soup dumplings again?" Lin Cong suddenly felt the soup dumplings that he had eaten that day were the best that he had ever tasted, naturally, apart from the dishes that his wife cooked.

"Our boss will stand treat?" Zheng Xing said smilingly suddenly.

"No problem. But only soup dumplings," Boss Zhao agreed readily.

"Our boss finally becomes generous this time," said Lin Cong with a faint smile.

"Yeah. I heard the bonus will be as high as 100 thousand RMB and will be soon distributed to us," Boss Zhao suddenly spoke about the bonus of the mission that they had just finished this time.

"You decide how to allocate that money, boss," said Zheng Xing straightforwardly.

"It doesn't matter for me, either. My wife treats me very well and fully respects my opinion." Lin Cong smiled in a free and easy way.

"Ok. I'm planning to put the bonus and the subsidies together. Coincidentally, the subsidies haven't been given to us, either," Boss Zhao looked at the other two and said while smiling.

"No problem. Please stop talking about anything else," Zheng Xing especially instructed.

"Since we have reached an agreement on what to do next, I nevertheless feel this is pretty good." Lin Cong touched out the red rope from the pocket and attached it to his wrist.

"I also feel it's good." With a smile, Boss Zhao followed suit.

Nevertheless, Zheng Xing just shrugged and then showed to them his left wrist with the red rope on, indicating he had already worn it.

The bright red rope and the bronze-colored arm formed a sharp contrast, yet appeared to be well-matched.

"You did it quickly." Lin Cong took a glimpse at Zheng Xing roughly.

"Of course, I'm faster than you," said Zheng Xing proudly.

"Shall we stand treat and invite the girl to have a meal?" Boss Zhao proposed.

"No problem. We will pay the money together," the other two people said in one voice this time.

"Great. Let's go." Boss Zhao directly made a turn and headed for

Yuan Zhou's restaurant with them.

Luckily, it was the time of break today. After all, they had stayed up all night long for two days continuously and hence needed one day off to have a good rest.

When they got to Yuan Zhou's restaurant, Yuan Zhou happened to be sitting at the door and waiting for the last few requests. With the suggestion box beside him, he nevertheless wasn't idle at all. Instead, he was busy with sculpting the radishes.

"Boss Yuan, I hope you can do us a favor." Boss Zhao uttered first.

"One moment, please." After that, Yuan Zhou continued his work.

He was carefully sculpting the broad-leaved epiphyllum out of the radish. Along with the swing of the kitchen knife, the beautiful lineament of the jade white petals gradually came into being.

"One of Boss Yuan's rules is not speaking while sculpting the flowers." Zheng Xing stopped Zheng Xing who wanted to say something.

"So many weird rules!" Lin Cong muttered in a low voice and then waited there obediently while standing.

"Shua Shua Shua", there was only the sound of Yuan Zhou waving the kitchen knife left in the quiet street.

A kitchen knife was used naturally and deftly by Yuan Zhou as if it were one of his fingers. The broad-leaved epiphyllum in his hands likewise revealed the genuinely tender lineament.

"What a damn miracle. Even the kitchen knife can be used to sculpt flowers?" said Lin Cong surprisedly.

"He's playing with the knife so well." Zheng Xing also sighed with emotion. There was a huge difference between reading the description on the internet and seeing the process on site.

"Luckily, he's only using the knife for sculpting." Boss Zhao really wanted to wipe the perspiration on his forehead.

Judging from the proficiency of him playing with the knife and the reflected light of the incisive blade in the sun, it was definitely an extremely sharp knife.

The way Yuan Zhou played with the knife reminded them of the equally swift and fierce manner of the Tartar waiter who spoke the Lanzhou dialect in the martial arts film of New Dragon Gate Inn.

However, Boss Yuan looked more handsome than that guy.

"Done. What's up?" Yuan Zhou put away the kitchen knife carefully and put the broad-leaved epiphyllum in the bouquet on the flower rack. After that, he stood up and asked.

"There has surprisingly already been a bunch of the sculpted flowers!" Lin Cong looked at the bunch of broad-leaved epiphyllum with a mass of blossoms on the flower rack in surprise. The verdant leaves were vivid while the lily flowers were elegant. Every flower had its own distinctive shape as if it were real.

"We want you to do us a favor." Boss Zhao diverted his attention away from the sculpted flowers and then asked Yuan Zhou while looking at him.

"I might not be able to help," said Yuan Zhou conservatively.

Meanwhile, he roughly estimated his own strengths in the heart. The several people in front of him were policemen, more specifically, plainclothesman, which was already known by him. If they came to him for help, it was definitely not an easy job.

"Boss Yuan, don't think too much. It's just a matter of a meal." Not knowing why, Boss Zhao suddenly discovered Yuan Zhou's thoughts easily and instantly said helplessly.

"No problem. But the rule concerning take-outs can't be violated." Yuan Zhou emphasized on his own rules.

"I know, I know. It's like this. We pay you the money and you help us to invite Huang Ling and her brother to come and have a meal. You can just make up any reason." Boss Zhao was unable to think of any good reason in an instant.

"Food tasting. I can invite them to taste my new dishes," Yuan Zhou supplemented with a low voice.

"You are right. Food tasting is a good reason," Boss Zhao agreed immediately.

"What would you like to order? This restaurant is open for 9 hours, of which 3 hours is the time for the pub at night. Besides, no dishes are provided during the pub time." Yuan Zhou didn't ask them why they would stand treat.

"Are those pastries for sale?" Pointing at the Colored Small Pastry, Boss Zhao asked.

"Yes, sure. Everyone could only order one pastry each time with the taste offered randomly." Yuan Zhou nodded his head.

"Ok. Two pastries, two bowls of Smoked Fish Silver Thread Noodles, one serving of Silk Twined Rabbit and Steamed Tofu with Minced Pork. That's all." Boss Zhao didn't order too many dishes.

One serving of staple food, meat dish, vegetable dish and some snacks. It was more or less good in quantity. If he ordered more, it wouldn't appear to be real.

"Plus two servings of Honey Tremella," Zheng Xing suddenly supplemented.

"No problem," Yuan Zhou answered with a nod.

"It's totally 1924 RMB. Plus the Honey Tremella of 2 RMB, it's 1926 RMB. Right?" Zheng Xing calculated the total price first.

"Is the Honey Tremella worth only 1 RMB each?" Asked Boss Zhao with curiosity.

For the price of this dish, Yuan Zhou had originally intended to make it different every time. No matter what number he got from shaking the phone, he would sell the dish at a price of particular numbers. The wild royal jelly matched with the best tremella deserved a higher price.

"Yes. 1 RMB." Nevertheless, Yuan Zhou didn't refute Boss Zhao this time. Instead, he confirmed the price with a nod.

"It's so surprising. Boss Yuan even has such a cheap dish." Boss Zhao heaved a sigh with emotion.

"Absolutely. Those who have eaten it all say it's genuine royal jelly." Zheng Xing supplemented at the side.

"That's great. Here's the money. Please arrange it." Boss Zhao brought out 2000 RMB and handed to Yuan Zhou.

It was basically the salary of half a month, however, Boss Yuan didn't show any look of reluctance this time.

"Don't worry. Here's the change." After a nod, Yuan Zhou took out the change from the countertop and gave it back.

"It's done. We can finally feel at ease now." Boss Yuan brought the other two people out of the restaurant and then heaved a sigh.

They saw a glimmer of admiration in Huang Ling's words of praise about Yuan Zhou's dishes. The conspicuous mood was clearly captured by the three policemen, but they didn't bring it out. They just straightforwardly made the decision to stand treat and offer the sister and brother a meal in Yuan Zhou's restaurant.

At the other side, Yuan Zhou put away the miracle kitchen knife, took out his phone and started to shake it. The price of the dish of honey tremella was set randomly, like last time when he shook the phone and got a number for price with the App.

"1000?" Yuan Zhou took a look at the new number and continued to shake expressionlessly.

A promise is a promise. Since it was he himself who promised the price of 1 RMB, he had to endeavor to get the very number.

At the sight of Ling Hong in the evening, Yuan Zhou asked, "What's the probability to shake the number of 1 in that App?"

"1 is the smallest number and is very difficult to get." With a puzzled look, Ling Hong answered Yuan Zhou.

Then, it seemed as if he were cursed. After shaking the number 2 for several times, he was still unable to get the number 1 even once.

Luckily, God finally showed concern and solicitude for him. There appeared on the phone a conspicuous number 1 at 2:00 a.m. in the morning.

Yuan Zhou's first reaction was to rub his eyes. When he looked at it again, he found it was really the number 1.

"Finally, I got the number. Terrific." Yuan Zhou held the phone and revealed a look of gratitude. If the number still didn't come out, he almost wanted to smash the phone.

The phone might have felt the threat, hence gave him the expected number.

The trouble was then perfectly solved. It seemed to be destined that the dish of Honey Tremella was served at 1 RMB. After that, Yuan Zhou set down the phone and fell asleep securely.

Regarding that he still shook the phone in his dream, it was not necessary to be mentioned...

Chapter 274: Receiving Reward of the Side Mission

All night long, Yuan Zhou was immersed in the nightmare of shaking his phone continuously. Only when he woke up and truly saw the number 1 appearing on the phone did he get relieved.

"Luckily I have truly got it. I thought it was merely the screen of my phone." Yuan Zhou wiped the perspiration and felt a little speechless.

Ever since he got the system, Yuan Zhou had even saved money by not buying an air-conditioner. Yet, it was the first time that he had sweated apart from jogging every morning.

"The number 1 seems to be a curse for me." Yuan Zhou changed into neat clothes and went out for jogging.

After jogging, he washed the perspiration away and stood in front of the mirror. The conspicuous outline of his abdominal muscles finally made him happy.

"I have a good-looking face, enough money, and craftsmanship as well as the abdominal muscles now," Yuan Zhou looked at himself in the mirror delightedly.

Following that, Yuan Zhou became slightly puzzled, "Since I'm so good, why don't I have a girlfriend?"

"Girls are too shy nowadays and definitely feel shy when they see such a nice person like me." Yuan Zhou thought for quite a while and then gave a definition.

He didn't think there was any problem with himself but just attributed his singleness to the reserved girls.

He checked the mission progress again and found the mission could soon be completed with a few more requests. The treat had to be postponed as the system hadn't provided him with the honey required by the dish of Honey Tremella. The most important thing for now was to complete the mission.

Therefore, Yuan Zhou moved the suggestion box out again in the early morning and prepared to take it out during the break time.

"Morning, boss." Zhou Jia greeted him upon entry into the restaurant.

"Morning." Yuan Zhou nodded his head.

"Do we still need the suggestion box today?" Zhou Jia had a habit of confirming the whole day's work in the morning first and then did the work according to the schedule. Anything beyond the schedule would be included in the work plan of the following day.

"Yes, we do. The Honey Tremella is still 1 RMB per serving." While thinking, Yuan Zhou reminded her squarely this time.

"Ok, got it. Is it available for ordering now?" Zhou Jia was also eager to have a try.

Zhou Jia and Shen Min had a new wish after they came to work in Yuan Zhou's restaurant, that is, to eat each and every dish on the menu some day. Of course, it wasn't a practical target for them right now, but at least they knew what their goal was.

"No." Yuan Zhou shook the head.

Then, Zhou Jia had to swallow up other utterances dumbly and cross out her plan to publicize the dish of tremella. What a joke! If she publicized this dish now but the customers couldn't order it, she was sure that they would burst into anger

Currently, there were still many customers who couldn't eat the dishes, as the business time was really not long.

"Boss, have you collected any useful suggestions? Oh, sorry. Requests?" Zhou Jia recalled that Yuan Zhou liked to say request, hence corrected herself temporarily.

"Yes, a lot." Yuan Zhou answered contentedly.

"Then will you serve new dishes?" Zhou Jia remembered the matter of new dishes.

"Yes, in the recent few days." Yuan Zhou nodded his head.

"Great. What's the new dish?" Asked Zhou Jia happily.

"I can't tell you now." The usual expression of solemnity appeared on Yuan Zhou's face again. He took a look at the price list and then said, "The breakfast for today is Duck Oil Sesame Seed Cakes."

"Alright. I'm going to do the cleaning, boss." Zhou Jia nodded the head and didn't show much curiosity.

She had intended to make a preliminary publicity for the new dish. After all, Yuan Zhou's restaurant likewise needed fame to grow more prosperous.

During the breakfast time, Ya Ya and Sister Wan, who had been here once, came again.

"Hoo. Lucky that we got up early today. I'm afraid they won't be able to catch up for the breakfast," said Ya Ya with a look of great luck.

"Thank you for waking me up. It worked pretty well." Sister Wan poked the chubby face of Ya Ya with a smile.

"Sister Wan, don't poke it. It's getting fatter and fatter." With a mournful look, Ya Ya couldn't help holding her fat face tight.

"It looks good. You appear quite lovable that way." Sister Wan entered the restaurant with Ya Ya smilingly.

"Sigh. If only we are shedding the fat rather than the tears when we are sad," Ya Ya stroked the fat at her waist and then said, indulging in fantasy.

"Haw-haw. You must be in a daydream, little girl." Sister Wan was made to laugh instantly.

"Forget it. Let me go to check what delicious food is served today." Ya Ya was a little embarrassed, thus she turned to check the breakfast to be served today.

Ya Ya shouted again before long, "Is it Duck Oil Sesame Seed Cake today? It's just wonderful. People on the gourmet forum all say this cake is rather tasty. Sister Wan, have you ever tried it before?"

"Yes. I just don't know how much more delicious is the sesame seed cake cooked by Boss Yuan?" Sister Wan made a reserved smile to Yuan Zhou and then said.

"It's definitely far more delicious," said Ya Ya happily.

"You won't know that until you eat it. Please, get us two Duck Oil Sesame Seed Cakes." Sister Wan was a person of action. She straightforwardly order their dishes.

"Alright. It'll be served in no time." Zhou Jia received the money

and immediately carried it out.

Once the yellowish brown and crisp Duck Oil Sesame Seed Cake was served, they attracted the two girls' attention.

"A sesame seed cake that looks beautiful," Ya Ya praised happily. After that, she lowered the head and smelled again and then continued to say, "How fragrant it is!"

"Eat it, little girl. Others are still waiting for your seat." Sister Wan signaled to her the people waiting in line behind them.

"Look at your greedy eyes, guys. I'm going to eat now." Ya Ya turned the head and found almost all customers in line waited eagerly for their turn with their eyes widely open.

After all, there were only 100 sesame seed cakes for breakfast including some for Yuan Zhou, naturally. Hence., it would be strange if the customers did not feel anxious.

"Awwwo". After a bite into the sesame seed cake, Ya Ya found although the cake was crisp, it wasn't fragmented at all. Beside, it was quite fragrant and tasty. The sesame seeds over the cake were sharply distinguished while the filling inside was soft and layered, totally unlike other flour products that would become messed up after entering the mouth.

The texture of the sesame seed cake was distinct while the layering fragrance was extraordinarily delicate. Ya Ya couldn't

help saying, "Boss Yuan, you can go to my hometown to open a branch restaurant. There are so many foodies over there."

It was really a tough job for her to enunciate clearly with a full mouth of sesame seed cake.

"No. There's only one Yuan Zhou," Yuan Zhou said with solemnity.

Then he checked the mission progress dumbly and found that one person really could only request once. The second request didn't work anymore.

He had already guessed that, yet was only sure about that now.

The 90 Duck Oil Sesame Seed Cake or so were sold out very soon. As was expected by Ya Ya, other customers who came along with her didn't manage to eat it.

"I don't believe it. I will keep waiting here until the noon." This was the man in short-sleeve shirt yesterday. He brought many new tourists here today.

"Yeah. I didn't even manage to eat the sesame seed cake." A girl began to act cottequishly to her boyfriend.

"Let's also ask the boss if he will open branch restaurants, shall we?" As her boyfriend was really unable to find any words to coax her, he was suddenly hit by the inspiration and then said.

"Yeah, you are right. Let's ask about that, too." The proposition instantly reminded other tourists.

Of course, the tourists cared about the matter of the branch restaurants. That way, they could eat the delicacies in their hometown. What an attractive thing it was!

"Boss Yuan, what do you think? Do you intend to open a branch restaurant? There happens to be one person that is offering a shop for sale near my home," a young man who had a look of pride said directly.

"Exactly. It does good to everyone if you can open branch restaurants," another person suggested smilingly.

"Boss Yuan, please. Please open branch restaurants."

The succession of the requests were far sufficient to complete the mission, even if some were repetitive. Then, Yuan Zhou saw the information of the system.

The system displayed, "Side mission completed and the reward is available now to be received."

"Sorry. I'm the only head chef in my restaurant and don't plan to open any restaurants," Yuan Zhou refused them flatly. Having thought for an instant, he added, "A new dish will be developed in a few days."

It could be considered as goodwill. When the tourists heard that, however, they became even sadder...

Chapter 275: Wu Hai Returns

"Boss Yuan, why do you tell us the news at this time of day? What shall we do now?" Ya Ya complained with a bitter face.

"You can come and eat it next time," Yuan Zhou said calmly.

"Boss Yuan, you make such a good point that I don't even know what to answer." Instantly, Ya Ya choked.

"Humm." Yuan Zhou nodded the head deservedly.

Then, the remaining customers choked, too.

"No wonder Boss Yuan doesn't like talking," Sister Wan said lightly thoughtfully.

After all, he either made people choked to death or get others choked to death with the way he talked.

"Boss Yuan, let's stop talking nonsense. Is the 100 Styles of Rice Cuisine available to be ordered as long as the main ingredient is rice?" the man in shirt paused for a while and then asked.

"Yes, it is." With a nod, Yuan Zhou expressed the affirmation.

"Xianglu Rice. Have you ever heard of that?" The man in shirt was a little complacent while speaking of that.

The Xianglu Rice was a kind of food that his grandma had mentioned during his childhood.

The grandma of the man in shirt told him that she had been from an eminent family before she married. When she didn't have a good appetite or didn't want to eat, the cook would make the fragrant and tasty Xianglu Rice for her.

Once it was served, the fragrance would be quite alluring. Just in little while, his grandma would eat it up very soon despite her bad appetite.

The man in shirt only heard of the description rather than tasted it personally. Therefore, it had been always kept in mind and unforgotten ever since he was little.

"Humm. I have only got the Rose Fragrant Xianglu Rice," answered Yuan Zhou indifferently. In the heart, however, he wanted to say that the wisdom of the ancestors was really endless and terrific. But luckily, he had the system backing him up.

"That's great. I would order one bowl of that," the man in shirt said with great excitement.

"Sorry, the business time hasn't yet started," said Yuan Zhou primly.

"I suddenly feel that my balls are aching." The man in shirt

revealed a speechless manner.

"If it isn't available to order right now, why did you answer me that way?" The man in shirt felt Yuan Zhou did that on purpose.

"It's my responsibility to tell my customers everything I know of," answered Yuan Zhou lightly.

Then, everybody was lost in silence. They indeed shouldn't ask that question now. It might be better to ask that after a while.

Absolute silence.

While Yuan Zhou was gradually controlling the situation, the customers were nevertheless waiting for the lunch time in silence.

At the other side, Wu Hai got impatient again. And the reason was quite simple.

Due to Zhou Jia's advance notice, the gourmet group instantly became excited and noisy. Several people like Wu Zhou, who liked watching the fun, specifically sent the message to Wu Hai. Therefore, he got irritated and impatient again.

[Wu Hai, Boss Yuan is gonna serve another new dish, which is said to be a main course. Meat Dish.] Wu Zhou just narrated the issue briefly to him.

[Bro Wu, the annoying guy Boss Yuan is going to serve a new dish again soon.] Man Man sat at the computer and snickered.

Once they started to notify Wu Hai, they could no longer stop guessing. Most of the regular customers brought out their speculations one after another.

From Braised Pork with Soy Sauce and Meat Balls to Stewed Chicken or Duck to Stir-Fried Shredded Pork.

Due to Wu Hai's inferior culinary skills, Wu Hai could only cook two dishes now. He had to go outside occasionally to eat some barely edible foods.

As soon as he received the notifications, he saw discussions about meat dishes all over the screen and the news that Yuan Zhou would provide a new meat dish. Stimulated by that, how could he stay there longer?

"Hua La". Without saying anything, Wu Hai pulled his suitcase out and packed up his stuff directly. The resolution of leaving immediately was clearly revealed on his face.

"Wu Hai! What's wrong with you again?" Wu Lin walked to him swiftly and asked.

"I'm gonna go back. If I stay here longer, I will go mad." Wu Hai appeared rather solemn, yet with his mustache made tidy and neat.

"Stay for the last two days. After that, you can go wherever you want. Even if you want to go to Amazon Rainforest to feed the snakes, I won't stop you." Wu Lin pressed the suitcase firmly and caught Wu Hai's arms.

"Lin Lin, don't say stuff thoughtlessly like that. What's the matter with you, Xiao Hai?" Zheng Jiawei took Wu Lin's hands and looked at Wu Hai worriedly.

With her hands being held by Zheng Jiawei, Wu Lin became a little woman immediately and obediently looked at her boyfriend talking.

"I want to eat meat, the meat dish cooked by Boss Yuan," stroking his small mustache, Wu Hai said decisively.

"No, you can't." Hearing Wu Hai still insist on leaving, Wu Lin was pissed off.

"Whatever you say, I will go back today." Wu Hai was quite relieved on thinking of the ID with him.

"Brother!" Wu Lin struggled to get herself free from Zheng Jiawei and directly went up, preparing to give her brother a flying mare.

"Even if you don't let me go back, I won't go out of the room. Do as you please," Wu Hai said quickly.

Then, Wu Lin became helpless. No matter what happened, she can't get him tied and force him to attend the exhibition.

"I'm just a painter. What they are to buy is the painting rather than me. It doesn't matter whether I'm here or not." Wu Hai had always felt it useless to stay there as the customers only wanted to buy the paintings.

Was there anybody that liked to see which chicken laid the egg before eating the eggs?

"Are you sure to leave?" said Zheng Jiawei with a look of pity as well as hope.

"Damn it, yes. If I needn't be here, why would I stay?" Wu Hai even uttered some curses.

"Alright. I will tell them you have some sort of emergency and have to travel far," having considered for a while, Zheng Jiawei said directly.

"Jiawei, don't spoil him." Wu Lin was unable to put up with her brother anymore and complained to Zheng Jiawei.

"I'm your brother, blood brother," Wu Hai shouted while pointing at himself.

"Then why couldn't you listen to me and stay for another two days?" Wu Lin turned the head and said.

"Then forget it. It matters nothing whether or not I'm your blood brother." Wu Hai stroked his mustache immediately and revealed a manner of indifference.

In order to eat the new dish cooked by Yuan Zhou, Wu Hai really tried his best.

"Never mind. I can manage the remaining work of the exhibition." Zheng Jiawei patted on Wu Hai's hands reassuringly.

Wu Lin nevertheless only answered with a "Humm" and then watched Zheng Jiawei buy the ticket personally and send her hopeless brother leave.

Just when Wu Hai was on the way back, the lunch time of Yuan Zhou's restaurant started.

"Boss Yuan, Xianglu Rice. Am I the first?" The man in shirt was quite complacent.

"There's still one minute left. Wait a little moment." Yuan Zhou took a look at the clock in his restaurant.

"Well, I can wait." The man in shirt then stopped there. He thought mercilessly in the heart that Yuan Zhou would definitely have big trouble if the dish wasn't cooked to be as satisfactory as described by his grandma. He might as well endure and tolerate him temporarily and see what would happen.

He read the revised Buddhism Dialogues between Hanshan and Shide silently in the heart to comfort his sombre mood.

"Zhou Jia, you can start to take orders now." Yuan Zhou was already in the kitchen. Once the time was up, he said that.

"Everybody, you can order dishes now. This way, please." Zhou Jia greeted the customers loudly and enthusiastically.

"I care about nothing but the Xianglu Rice. Get one for me, please." The man in shirt was rather persistent.

Seeing that, even Sister Wan became curious. She asked, "What is it? I haven't heard of that, either."

"Me either." Ya Ya nodded and echoed her at the side.

"Actually, I haven't eaten the food before, either. I just heard of the name from my grandma when I was little. It was said to be elegant and delicious." Asked by a beautiful young girl, the man in shirt was quite happy to answer the question. However, he spoke in a very low voice as if he were afraid that Yuan Zhou would hear that.

Yuan Zhou truly heard him. He just didn't care about that as he was fairly confident in cooking the food.

The first step to cook the Xianglu Rice was to pick rice, which covered Xiang Dao, Dong Shuang, Wan Mi, GuanYin Xian and Taohua Xian according to the sequence of the yielding seasons. This time, what Yuan Zhou picked was the rice of Taohua Xian.

The rice in this season carried a glimmer of softness, stickiness and fragrance. It couldn't be better to blend the Xianglu into the rice.

Food is the fundamental taste of everything. Therefore, Yuan Zhou took out the rice and then started to sluice it very carefully.

Buddhism Dialogues between Hanshan and Shide: Han Shang once asked Shi De, "Some people in the world slander me, bully me, insult me, laugh at me, belittle me, look me down, hate me and deceive me. What should I do about it then?"

Shi De replied, "You only have to tolerate him, let him win, let him be, avoid him, be patient with him, respect him and never mind about him. After a few years, you can just see him again and will find a quite different person."

Chapter 276: Rose Dew Rice

"Then could you tell us what makes it so elegant?" asked Ya Ya with a look of curiosity.

"Well, I indeed know something about it," the man in the shirt took a look at Sister Wan and then said complacently.

"Tell us quickly about that." Ya Ya stared at him with her big eyes.

"Do you know anything particular about rice?" When he found Sister Wan was also a bit curious, the man said, trying to show off his knowledge.

"I know it. Rice possesses the neutral Qi of the heaven and earth and is the foundation of health preservation." Spoke Ya Ya like a book.

"This little girl really knows much." The man grounded his teeth. But when he saw Sister Wan still listening to him carefully, he continued saying.

"But it's not the main point. Of course, what you talked about can also count as one." The man first affirmed Ya Ya.

"I'm talking about the washing of the rice. Look, Boss Yuan's actions are fairly standard," he said affirmatively while pointing at Yuan Zhou.

"Don't people say all the nutrition is on the surface of the rice and that the rice shouldn't be washed harshly?" Sister Wan said hesitantly.

"It's not like that. While washing the rice, you should spare no efforts to rub it carefully with hands, like what Boss Yuan is doing now. Only when the water that has been sprinkled on the rice in the bamboo basket gets very clear is the rice considered ready." With the man's look of affirmation and Yuan Zhou being as the standard, the two ladies believed it soon.

It was of course because Yuan Zhou's craftsmanship enjoyed great popularity among the people.

"Is that the flower dew?" Sister Wan suddenly pointed to a crystal vase that was taken out by Yuan Zhou and asked.

"It appears to be so. The rose has a faint pink color." The man in the shirt revealed an expression of affirmation.

Meanwhile, Yuan Zhou was cooking in the kitchen earnestly. Of course, he would play cool conveniently while the man in the shirt was explaining.

It was all destiny arranged by the God to let him, an originally low-profile person, to be the center of attention.

Yuan Zhou thought that quietly in his mind.

Actually, Yuan Zhou didn't cook especially in accordance with the man's explanation. After all, the Rose Dew Rice was only delicious by cooking this way.

Just in a little while, the rice was steamed.

"Look, Boss Yuan is going to pour the flower dew," the man in the shirt pointed at Yuan Zhou and said excitedly.

"Great. It's definitely super fragrant." Girls had a congenital preference for such elegant food.

"Yes. My grandma said the fragrance would linger in the mouth after eating," the man said loudly.

"Since it is fragrant dew, it will certainly be fragrant." Sister Wan also agreed with a nod.

"Sister Wan, let me treat you to the meal, shall I?" Only then did the man in the shirt bring out his purpose.

"No need. Hi, please also get me one bowl of the Rose Dew Rice." With a faint smile, Sister Wan declined him and ordered one bowl by herself.

"Sister Wan, I don't mean anything," The face of the man flushed slightly, but he still said with a seemingly calm manner.

"Thank you for your kindness. I just felt like ordering one serving, so I won't bother you." Sister Wan was quite courteous. She refused him deftly.

"Alright." The man in the shirt had only to nod the head silently.

"Wait. Get me one bowl of the rice, too." Ya Ya covered her mouth and snickered. But when she found Sister Wan was looking at her helplessly, she stopped snickering and began to order her dishes.

As a matter of fact, the dish only required little dew, about one small cup. Pour the dew over the rice and stir them together evenly and then simmer them for a while. After that, the dish was ready.

Then, Yuan Zhou began to prepare the bowls and plates for the dish.

The bowls and plates were quite unique this time. The edge of the bowl was like that of lotus leaves, choppy and layered like the genuine lotus leaves.

The outside edge of the bowl was painted with green stalks. Inside it was the translucent rice grains with a hint of faint pink.

As if it were the bashful face of a young girl.

Even the matched spoon was in the shape of a miniature lotus leaf, which was lovable and tiny.

"It's so cute. Boss Yuan, we also want this kind of bowls, ok?" Ya Ya did well in playing cute.

"All the bowls and plates are the same," answered Yuan Zhou seriously.

"Terrific. Thank you, Boss Yuan," Ya Ya said delightedly.

"You are welcome." After a nod, Yuan Zhou went back and continued cooking dishes.

"Sister Wan, I will eat first," the man in the shirt still didn't give up and asked her tentatively.

"Go ahead, please," Sister Wan said smilingly.

"Humm." The man then lowered his head disappointedly and prepared to eat.

On lowering the head, he smelled the abundant rice fragrance, from which the strong rose fragrance was likewise smelt.

"It's truly fragrant." The man in the shirt signed. Seeing Sister Wan just turn her head and talk to Ya Ya, he started to eat attentively.

As soon as the rice entered his mouth, the man remembered that he hadn't ordered any dish yet, but only the rice.

With the rice in his mouth, however, the man totally forgot the matter of dishes. As for other matters, he naturally forgot them, either.

The moment the rice entered the mouth, the refreshing fragrance of roses rushed into his throat along with that of the rice.

Having slightly chewed it, he felt the rice grain was moderate in hardness and there was a hint of sweetness inside.

It was sweet and delicious with some intrinsic fragrance and moreover tasted like the uppermost layer of rice in the cooker that he ate secretly when he was hungry at his childhood.

The Rose Dew Rice was exactly the same to that described by his grandma, being soft and sticky. Besides, it could increase one's appetite and relieve the depressed mood. While the remaining rice was getting less and less, the man in the shirt nevertheless became happier.

For such a kind of delicious food, he could directly eat up a big bowl of it without even any dish, not to mention that it was only a small bowl.

"Ba Ji Ba Ji". The more the man chewed the rice, the tastier he felt.

At last, the bowl became quite clean after he finished the meal one gulp after another. There wasn't any steam in the bowl, but only the shining oil gloss on the surface of the bowl due to the rice oil. It looked so beautiful like the lotus leaves after a rain, seeming an emerald green, as if water could fall in at any time.

"It's so yummy. I only get to know now why my grandma could eat up this particular food despite her bad appetite. I can also eat another three bowls of this rice," the man heaved a sigh and said earnestly.

"It's fragrant, isn't it?" Ya Ya couldn't wait to ask.

"Indeed. Boss Yuan is really so awesome," the man said admiringly.

"Boss Yuan's craftsmanship is originally very good." Ya Ya was quite proud as if she were very familiar with Yuan Zhou.

"I have never expected that Boss Yuan could even cook private home cuisines of former times." The man knew this Fragrant Dew Rice was the craftsmanship that only the people of his grandma's decade mastered.

At least, only Yuan Zhou was capable to cook it after he traveled to so many places.

"I'm looking forward to it." The expectations on Ya Ya's face could hardly be concealed anymore.

"The dishes are to be served right away," said Sister Wan reassuringly.

"Humm, humm." Ya Ya nodded the head.

Ya Ya's eyes gleamed in infinite expectation as Yuan Zhou carried the Fragrance Dew Rice to them.

"The Rose Dew Rice for you two. Please enjoy," said Yuan Zhou courteously.

"Thank you. Fantastic, I can finally eat it now," Ya Ya received the food immediately and said happily.

"You are welcome." After saying that, Yuan Zhou prepared to go back to the kitchen.

"Wait. Boss Yuan, I want to do business with you. Can we talk?" A man wearing a cap straightway stopped Yuan Zhou and said.

"No, not during business hours," Yuan Zhou said lightly.

"It's about the matter of your shop sign," the man said anxiously.

"Zhou Jia, you handle this matter." Yuan Zhou didn't want to get involved in this matter.

"Ok, boss." Zhou Jia answered immediately.

"I'm sorry, sir. My boss is very busy. If you have anything to talk to him, you can come one hour later," Zhou Jia said to the man politely.

"I'm talking about the shop sign that's free of charge." The man still said loudly to Yuan Zhou alone.

"Free of charge?" Yuan Zhou got a little interested then... But still, the man had to wait for an hour before talking about that.

Chapter 277: The Lure of Free Stuff

"Hey, Boss Yuan. Can we talk now?" the man wearing a cap continued saying.

"I'm sorry. Please wait until the business time is over and then discuss about it. My boss won't do anything else right now," Zhou Jia said seriously.

"Ok, fine. He really has so many rules." The man said discontentedly.

"Sorry, please pardon me." Zhou Jia made a gesture of "Please leave".

"I can wait for one hour only, as I still have something else to do." The man looked quite dissatisfied but still agreed at last. After grumbling several words, he stepped aside.

"Thanks for your understanding." After a faint smile, Zhou Jia continued to greet other customers.

"Whoops. Finally, I get my turn. I almost starv to death." It was a man who was dressed in a gray shirt and appeared rather stout. He complained while walking into the restaurant.

"Sir, this way, please. What do you want to eat today?" As soon as she heard him, Zhou Jia went up and asked.

"All the meat dishes are my favorite," the man in gray shirt said immediately with his eyes glowing.

"The menu of this tiny restaurant is right behind you. Please check what you want to eat." Zhou Jia signaled the man to look at the menu behind of him.

"Ok." The man then turned the head and looked back.

"Can these dishes be cooked with a bigger portion?" After checking all the dishes, the man looked toward Zhou Jia.

"Sir, the dishes are all standard portion. You can easily eat your fill with one serving." Zhou Jia uttered earnestly. However, she wasn't really confident with that. After all, too many customers requested to increase the portion.

"Are you sure you can't?" The man frowned.

"You can order one serving of every single dish here in our restaurant." Zhou Jia put it another way and indicated that he could eat his fill in the restaurant.

"All right. Translucent Beef Slices, Silk Twined Rabbit and Melt-In-The-Mouth Chicken Feet," The man in gray shirt considered for a while and ordered.

"Is that all, sir?" Zhou Jia asked courteously.

"Don't you have any main course like streaky pork or braised pork with soy sauce?" The man asked again.

"Sir, all our dishes have been written on the menu." Zhou Jia said politely again.

"Forget it. The Phoenix Tail Prawns can also be considered to be a meat dish. Get one serving of that for me." The man ordered another dish despite his tone of disfavor.

"Alright, sir. Your dishes will be served in no time." Zhou Jia said with courtesy while smiling.

"Ok, go now." The man waved his hands and signaled Zhou Jia to go and get the dishes for him.

"One moment, please." Zhou Jia nodded the head.

The first thing that Yuan Zhou did after he received the order was to ask Zhou Jia, "Have you reminded him of the rules of our restaurant?"

The serious and earnest manner of Yuan Zhou enabled Zhou Jia to become earnest, too.

"Yes, I told him the moment he ordered the dishes." The comely face of Zhou Jia tightened firmly.

"Humm, that's good." Then Yuan Zhou nodded the head and turned to cook the dishes.

The smoke-cured Silk Twined Rabbit and the Translucent Beef Slices were served first. With his forehead tightly creased in a frown, however, the man in gray shirt said after a long while, "They are surprisingly so little."

Just when Zhou Jia was about to answer him, the man nevertheless turned the head and started to eat. Therefore she had to give up.

"Humm. Well, it's so delicious and way too good." The man couldn't help sighing with emotion while gobbling up the dishes.

Then, Zhou Jia became relieved when she saw the man eat so happily with satisfaction.

After all, this person seemed to be a little dissatisfied. And Zhou Jia hoped very much that the customers would increase.

Only when the boss had good business could they work there longer and hence have a stable high salary.

"These are the remaining dishes that you ordered just now. Now they are all here." Zhou Jia carried the dishes onto his table neatly.

"Okay. You can go now," The man in gray shirt said vaguely.

Then, he continued eating. The way he gobbled the dishes up gave people a free and uninhibited feeling.

It seemed that he liked Yuan Zhou's craftsmanship very much.

The eating speed of the man made others greatly impressed.

"The way this guy eats the dishes is so exaggerated. He seems to like Boss Yuan's craftsmanship a lot," having just entered the restaurant, Man Man said to Zhou Jia smilingly.

"Of course. The craftsmanship of my boss is the best," said Zhou Jia proudly.

"Young girl, how do you know that since you haven't eaten any of the dishes before?" Man Man joked with her.

"I surely know. Sister Man Man, you also like his dishes, don't you?" Zhou Jia asked back cleverly.

"This little girl also knows to strike back now," Man Man said with a smile.

"Sister Man Man, what do you want to eat today?" With also a smile on her face, Zhou Jia changed the subject.

"Me? One serving of the dish as usual, please," Man Man said leisurely. After all, she was the last customer for lunch.

There were only 5 minutes left before lunch time ended.

"Alright. One moment, please." Zhou Jia turned around and left then.

Having cooked Man Man's dishes, Yuan Zhou finished his work. After he brought out the closing remarks as usual, he went straightway to the man wearing a cap.

Yuan Zhou indicated that he was fairly interested in things free of charge.

"Sorry for making you wait so long. What can I do for you?" Said Yuan Zhou first.

"Boss Yuan, you have got a really good business." Looking at the customers who were unwilling to leave, the man wearing a cap heaved a sigh with emotion.

"Thank you." Yuan Zhou nodded the head.

"May I be so bold as to ask how much is the daily turnover of your restaurant?" Under the brim of the cap, a pair of shrewd eyes rolled about quickly.

"What do you ask that for?" Yuan Zhou suddenly became alert.

Did these cunning guys want to play the trick of sending thing for free and then cheating his money again?"

"There are always some people who want to cheat my money." This stingy Compass thought that way.

"I don't mean anything, but just want to know the footfall of your customers. Please don't misunderstand me." Seeing Yuan Zhou misunderstand him, the man wearing a cap explained immediately.

"It's just like today as you see." Yuan Zhou signaled to him the crowd that hadn't totally dispersed.

"That's great. Boss Yuan, I see you still haven't had your shop sign installed. I can provide you with one for free." The man wearing a cap said generously.

"For free? Why?" Yuan Zhou felt even if his fortune was far too good, he had gotten the best and most advantageous system.

Therefore, he wouldn't believe there was such a good thing for him. He definitely had to make it clear.

"Reason? There's no particular reason for that. I just feel that it does not conform to your style not to have a shop sign in such a nice restaurant as yours. So I want to provide you with one." The

man complimented Yuan Zhou without any obvious trace.

What the man said made Yuan Zhou feel very comfortable, but still, he didn't give him the reason.

"Please get to the main point." Yuan Zhou revealed a quite solemn expression, indicating that he was fairly concerned about that.

Yuan Zhou wasn't good at dealing with the slippery people. It wasn't his strong point to guess others' inwards.

Like he said before, he was merely a chef, a chef with the target of being a Master Chef.

"We just want to add some advertisement for my business on the shop sign. Don't worry. It's not food and won't affect your business." While speaking, the man carefully observed Yuan Zhou's expression.

When he saw something was wrong, he said immediately, "It's made of large glass screen with LED lighting lamps. We offer lifetime maintenance. For any emergency, a simple call would bring us here."

Yuan Zhou was deeply struck by the proposal. But when he was prepared to talk about some details, the long-lost system suddenly appeared.

The system displayed, "Host's level is too low to possess a shop

sigh."

"You think I still don't deserve the title of Master Chef?" Not knowing why, Yuan Zhou suddenly quickly grasped the system's meaning, thus he ridiculed straightforwardly in the heart.

However, the system disappeared again. Looking at the man who was waiting for his answer, Yuan Zhou uttered with a serious look of righteousness.

"Sorry, I don't accept any advertisements."

On speaking that, the several words sounded extraordinarily domineering and just. Deep in the heart, however, Yuan Zhou thought differently.

What the hell! The advertising shop sigh that was offered for free and lifetime maintenance was gone.

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Chapter 278: Precautions of Dongpo Pig Knuckle

"Boss Yuan, if you have any requirement for the shop sign, we can talk about that." The man wearing a cap didn't believe that Yuan Zhou would refuse him so bluntly.

"It's very late. Bye." Instead of answering his question, Yuan Zhou nevertheless uttered to drive him away.

"Actually, I can offer you the newest product that requires the least power. It's convenient and can save power." The man wearing a cap offered more benefits continuously. Judging from that, Yuan Zhou's business was extraordinarily good.

"Thank you, but I don't need it." With an indifferent look, Yuan Zhou walked to the door, as if to send him away.

If the man still stayed there, Yuan Zhou almost couldn't control the primitive force inside of his body.

"All right. If you change your mind, feel free to call me." Seeing Yuan Zhou's determined attitude, the man wearing a cap could only leave. However, he still left his name card there.

"Good bye." Yuan Zhou said at last, but he didn't take the name card.

When the man wearing a cap found he wasn't going to make it, he left Yuan Zhou's restaurant.

"Hooo, so many temptations on the way to a Master Chef. I refused another one just now," Yuan Zhou comforted himself primly.

Nevertheless, Man Man and Zhou Jia got a little speechless.

"Boss Yuan, I really feel it is necessary for you to make a shop sigh." Said Man Man earnestly.

"I will have one when it's the right time." Yuan Zhou revealed a mysterious look.

"Since the restaurant has been opened for so long time, are you still prepared to specifically select one day to hang the shop sigh?" Man Man couldn't help ridiculing.

"You are right." Yuan Zhou nodded the head.

"...." Man Man had nothing to say instantly. Only after quite a while did she say,

"All right. I'm going back."

"Humm." Yuan Zhou nodded the head.

"Boss, I'm going back, too." As his employee, Zhou Jia found it inappropriate for her to say anything about the shop sigh.

"Take care on the way." This time, Yuan Zhou spoke a few more words.

It could be clearly seen that he wasn't in a good mood. That indeed made sense. Whoever declined a benefit would inevitably feel upset.

Not to mention that Yuan Zhou was a person who liked money. Therefore, such a situation was really understandable.

Once the man left, Yuan Zhou got seated in the chair following a sound of "Peng" and after quite a while he tapped open the mission directly and received the new dish.

[Side Mission] To collect 100 requests to open branch restaurants (completed)

(Mission tips: one couldn't be regarded as a master chef if no one applies for a branch restaurant.)

[Mission status] 100/100

[Mission Reward] A recipe of Dongpo Pig Knuckle (received)

(Reward tips: a main course of Sichuan Cuisines, a must-have

dish for a master chef.)

"Only a meat dish can comfort my wounded heart." Yuan Zhou checked the cooking method of Dongpo Pig Knuckle dumbly.

There was not only the cooking method, but also the eating method of the dish as well as a long succession of precautions.

"Awesome, my system." Looking at the long succession of precautions, Yuan Zhou couldn't help but said.

The system displayed, "Thanks for your compliments."

"... You are welcome." Yuan Zhou really wanted to say it wasn't a compliment, but he didn't after some consideration. After all, he was truly grateful to the system.

This time, Yuan Zhou cooked two servings of Dongpo Pig Knuckle at a go due to the eating method. Therefore, he straightforwardly took out two pork hocks from the cabinet provided by the system.

"Are they fresh?" Yuan Zhou took up two pork hock with the same size and asked conveniently.

The system displayed, "Yes. The pork hock is taken from purebred Lantang Pig, also known as Hibiscus Pig. It has existed for quite a long time. Its history could be traced back as early as the period of Wei Jin Southern and Northern Dynasties. And the fat

and lean meat are evenly distributed, therefore it's totally different from the current lean-meat pork."

"The taste of the Lantang Pig is rather well-stacked. With its moderately distributed fat and lean meat, it's the best option for Dongpo Pig Knuckle."

"The origin of Lantang Pig, Zijin County, is dominated by mountainous and hilly areas with the average height above sea level no less than 300m. The Tropic of Cancer traverses the central section of the county. It is the subtropical monsoon climate and thus has a warm climate. The frost-free season reaches up to 300 days and the annual precipitation is about 1760mm. It's suitable for the growth of various crops including rice, peanut, soybean, sugarcane, silkworm and mulberry, etc."

"The abundant crops have provided the good and stable feeding atmosphere. Having been improved by the system, the proportion of the fat and lean meat reaches 5:5 perfectly."

"The plants for feeding the pig during the feeding period are herbage, including some medicinal plants that the pig likes the most. The daily sports time is arranged according to the weight, age and physical state of every pig. The pig itself doesn't have any smell of urine. Instead, it even has some fragrance."

"The pork hock selected this time are the front hoofs, including that piece of most delicious part, 'See No Sky'."

"Every time, you surprise me. What's wrong with you?" Yuan

Zhou took the bamboo stick and ridiculed expressionlessly.

However, the system that had just turned up disappeared again. Yuan Zhou could do nothing but sigh and continue to verify the quality of the food material.

The quality of the pork hock was actually very easy to distinguish. Take a smooth bamboo stick and thrust it into the meat quickly, vigorously and precisely. After that, wash and smell it. If there was fragrance from it, it was superior material. But if there was the smell of urine, it was inferior.

Therefore, Yuan Zhou was prepared to do that.

Having frequently practiced sculpting, Yuan Zhou already had very stable hands. After thrusting the bamboo stick into the pork hock and leaving a tiny but deep hole, he smelled a bland and aromatic smell as described by the system, devoid of even the common blood smell.

"The system seems to have a skilled craftsmanship. There's surprisingly not even a little blood. It should have been drained away." Yuan Zhou spoke highly of the system silently. However, the system still didn't turn up and answer him.

"The skill of removing hair is not so good though." Yuan Zhou took up the pork hock and found several pig hairs on it. But this problem was very easy to handle.

He took out the hair tweezers and cleaned the two pork hock up neatly and quickly.

Normally, people would cut open the pig skin and flesh and take the bones out from inside. Yuan Zhou nevertheless did to the contrary. After all, he had to stuff a very important food material inside the flesh.

Yuan Zhou picked up an extremely narrow sharp knife and thrust it into the flesh quickly along the anadesma with his right hand. After that, he rotated the knife conveniently and then took the entire bone out. The anadesma inside was still attached to the flesh.

"It seems that I am not far from cooking the Wu Chicken." Yuan Zhou looked at the intact cut and sighed with emotion.

Just while Yuan Zhou was busy cooking in the kitchen and preparing to reward himself with a feast, Wu Hai was finally going to get off the plain.

"Sir, our plane will land half an hour later. Do you have any needs?" A pretty airline stewardess said to Wu Hai who was sitting in the spacious first-class cabin.

"A cup of ice water," looking at the empty tray table, Wu Hai said lightly.

"Ok, sir. One moment, please," The stewardess slightly bowed to

him and said smilingly.

"Humm." Wu Hai answered while lowering his head and looking at the phone.

What a joke! Wu Hai was watching the gourmet backup group constantly and he just wanted to know what Yuan Zhou's new dishes were.

However, no one said anything even after the noon passed.

Wu Hai couldn't help sending a message to ask about that and then got to know Yuan Zhou hadn't served any new dish.

"Fortunately, I can catch up with the new dish." When Wu Hai saw the messages replying him with a 'no', he felt relieved and then said.

"Sir, your ice water." At that time, the stewardess served him a cup of water.

"No lemon, please. Change one for me," when Wu Hai raised the head and found a slice of lemon was put in the water for decoration, he frowned and said straightway.

"Sorry, sir. I will change another cup of water for you at once," the stewardess apologized immediately.

"Humm. Don't put anything inside." Wu Hai specifically emphasized.

Wu Hai wasn't interested in such inferior lemons, even if it was provided in the first-class cabin. They were all from the greenhouse in the market. What good taste would it have even if the fragrance wasn't pure? It had no other functions but to destroy the taste of the water.

"Sure. Don't worry, sir." The stewardess was still smiling.

With his picky mouth, Wu Hai could only live on Yuan Zhou now...

Chapter 279: Wu Hai and Ling Hong

Two servings of Dongpo Pig Knuckle were immediately eaten up by Yuan Zhou alone after they were done.

"Burp. It's definitely not because I eat a lot but because my craftsmanship is way too good," Yuan Zhou looked at the clean plates and said solemnly.

The gravy inside of the plate was, naturally, eaten clean by Yuan Zhou together with a bowl of plain white rice.

"I'm too full and should do some exercises," touching his belly dumbly, Yuan Zhou stood up and said.

"Ping Ling Pang Lang". Having tidied up the used kitchenware, Yuan Zhou carried them to the dishwasher provided by the system to wash.

After that, he started to deal with the pork hock. He had prepared to serve this dish of Dongpo Pig Knuckle that evening.

As for publicity? Well, Yuan Zhou indicated that his superb craftsmanship was the best publicity.

He was now making the preliminary preparations first so that he could make it more quickly once someone ordered the dish. That way, the dish could be fresh, delicious and thoroughly cooked.

Su Dongpo, one of the greatest literator, painter-calligrapher and gourmet in the Northern Song Dynasty once made a poetic work of poetry Eating Pork, reading, "The superior pork in Huang Zhou region is as cheap as the soil. The rich don't like eating it while the poor don't know how to cook it properly. It should cooked with slow fire and less water. When the time is sufficient, it'll naturally become delicious. Eating a bowl of the pork every morning prevents people from being hungry."

Therefore, the heat control of the pig knuckle was quite important. Of course, there was also the particular time to eat the dish cooked by Yuan Zhou.

While Yuan Zhou was making preparations for the meal in the evening, Wu Hai just got off the plane.

The fastest way to go back was naturally to take a taxi, which was convenient and could save time and effort.

"Hi, Taoxi Road, please," as soon as he got on the taxi, Wu Hai said straightforwardly.

"Alright. We'll be there very soon," the taxi-driver smiled and said happily.

This place was fairly far from here, which meant more fare, thus the taxi-driver was quite delighted.

At the other side, a person who had been attracted here by Yuan

Zhou's fame was also on the way to Yuan Zhou's restaurant.

As a result, it seemed to be just the right time for Yuan Zhou to serve the dish of Dongpo Pig Knuckle. Wu Hai came back and besides, another person who admired Yuan Zhou's craftsmanship was also on the way here.

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"Good evening, boss." Zhou Jia greeted Yuan Zhou with a well-behaved manner.

"Humm. We'll serve a new dish tonight," Yuan Zhou said straightway.

This time, Yuan Zhou told her about the new dish directly. Due to the matter of Honey Tremella last time, he had been attacked for a long time by the continuous grudges of Zhou Jia and Shen Min. Therefore, Yuan Zhou told her about that beforehand.

"Ok, boss. Please tell me the price." Zhou Jia was both happy and worried.

"Is it really good for the boss to be so capricious? Every time he serves new dishes, he neither gives notice nor publicizes. With his craftsmanship and popularity, the business will definitely boom after the publicity." While waiting for Yuan Zhou to answer her, Zhou Jia ridiculed him helplessly in the heart.

"The price is on the menu." Yuan Zhou signaled her to look at the menu.

Then, Zhou Jia turned to look at the wall behind her obediently.

As expected, there appeared another blank space on the price list, where the dish of Dongpo Pig Knuckle and its price were written.

"Hiss.. So expensive," Zhou Jia couldn't help saying in a low voice.

"However, the dish is a main course. The boss's craftsmanship definitely deserves the price," Thinking of Yuan Zhou's craftsmanship, Zhou Jia said as if it were obvious.

Yuan Zhou, nevertheless, turned around and continued to busy working in the kitchen.

"Boss, can I go to do some advertising?" Zhou Jia looked at the crowd waiting in line outside and then asked after a short consideration.

Because Zhou Jia had never seen Yuan Zhou publicize for himself, she was a little hesitant when she asked that. It wouldn't be good if her boss didn't like her to do that.

"Humm," Yuan Zhou answered vaguely.

Then he observed the system and saw nothing special happen.

As was expected, the publicity from others had nothing to do with Yuan Zhou himself.

"It seems to be wonderful to have such a smart girl as Zhou Jia working here." Yuan Zhou thought dumbly in the heart. He obviously wouldn't show any dislike to more money.

"Ok. I'm going now." Zhou Jia revealed a smile.

She first took up the phone and began to send messages in the gourmet group.

[Boss Yuan's menu is updated. Good news to meat-eaters. The dish of Dongpo Pig Knuckle is hereby developed. It'll be officially served tonight.], from Jia Jia.

Ignoring the more-than-99 replies from the group, Zhou Jia put down the phone and went outside the door.

"Everybody, we are serving a new dish, Dongpo Pig Knuckle, in Yuan Zhou's restaurant today. Everyone is welcomed to savor it," Zhou Jia revealed a sweet smile and said loudly and clearly.

Instantly, the crowd became excited and the scene got noisy. Only then did Zhou Jia see the former regular customer, Wu Hai, ahead of the line.

At that time, many people who knew Wu Hai started to congratulate him.

"It's really a wise decision to come back, Wu Hai. See? You can eat the new dish now," Ling Hong first congratulated Wu Hai smilingly. Yet in the next breath, he continued saying with a tone full of teasing.

"It's just that you didn't manage to eat the sweet and delicious Honey Tremella and scalding and tasty Smoked Fish Silver Thread Noodles. Sigh. Boss Yuan is way too capricious."

Ling Hong was apparently provoking the anger of Wu Hai. As a result, Wu Hai directly fought back.

"It's true that I didn't manage to eat the very first serving, but I will eat them for every meal and every day." While stroking the mustaches, Wu Hai looked with disdain at Ling Hong, who was sometimes too busy to come, and showed off his advantages brazenly.

"I have money." Ling Hong tossed his hair and then added, "Moreover, I'm tall and handsome."

Ling Hong had never lacked confidence.

"Ho Ho." With the manner of literary youth, Wu Hai showed much contempt.

After all, he was the renowned painter and had seen many rich second-generations such as Ling Hong.

"Haw-haw. I have been quite free these days and thus often come here. So many new dishes. What a happy life!" Ling Hong continued to stimulate Wu Hai.

He knew much about the degree of Wu Hai being picky about foods.

However, Wu Hai didn't answer him anymore. Instead, he just waited there silently and prepared to order all the new dishes one by one. After all, he felt that he was so hungry that he could eat up a whole cattle.

In the middle of the line was a man who was dressed up strikingly. He was wearing well-fitting casual clothes and kept a towering spiky hair, with each and every one of them standing upright vigorously. With his big eyes and bushy eyebrows, he appeared rather handsome and manly.

Standing there motionlessly, he emitted sense of self-confidence from all over his body, appearing quite arrogant.

"How surprising! I encountered a new dish today. I'm really lucky." Once he smiled, he became more handsome.

Of all the people in the line, some cared about the taste while

some others cared about the price. For the meat-eaters, however, they agreed that the new dish was terrific.

"It's surprisingly Dongpo Pig Knuckle. Look, how clever I am. This is the pure meat dish. I don't even need the plain rice to eat up a whole plate of the dish," a thin middle-aged man said confidently.

"Are you sure? It's so greasy." Girls didn't show much interest in this pure meat dish.

"Of course. I almost drool on thinking of the sweet, tasty, soft, sticky and appetizing texture of the dish," the thin man said happily with his teeth visible to others.

"I still feel that Boss Yuan's Jinling Grass tastes great. Of course, the Braised Pork with Soy Sauce made of rice is also excellent." When the girls recalled the bland Jinling Grass and the yummy Braised Pork with Soy Sauce, they instantly felt that they were going to drool.

"After evolving for so many decades, humans aren't living just for vegetables," the slim middle-aged man said primly.

"Haw-haw. Yeah, that's true." As soon as the slim middle-aged man said that, many people including girls chimed in with him.

"Well, all right. We'll see if we want a try. But I'm afraid that I wouldn't finish it. If so, I will get blacklisted." The girl was slightly

persuaded. However, she wasn't really confident that she could eat up one entire pork hock.

"Don't worry. We can help you," instantly, the crowd said in one voice.

It was really a cozy and friendly scene. Humans were truly creatures of unity, which meant strength.

Foodies were loving. Did anybody have inexhaustible money? Let me help you eat it up, for free. FREE OF CHARGE.

Chapter 280: Matter of Spring Wound Clock

"Er.. I don't think it's necessary. I came with my friend." While saying, the girl dragged Yuan Yuan out from behind her.

It was the girl who liked eating the sandwich along with the Beef and Blueberry Jam very much.

Being dragged out suddenly, Yuan Yuan looked blankly at the customers who were all looking at her.

"Yuan Yuan, you will help me, won't you?" the girl asked directly.

"Humm, I will." Friends were to help each other, although Yuan Yuan, who had stared somewhere blankly just now, didn't actually know what happened.

Then, other customers lost their interest and had only to continue their discussions about Dongpo Pig Knuckle.

Of course, it was much too common right now to publish something on Wechat Moment or QQ Zone. Someone even especially made calls to notify his friends.

Zhou Jia was quite delighted to see that. She returned to the restaurant with a big smile and waited there silently for the dinner time.

Nevertheless, Wu Hai just looked at his watch attentively and waited very patiently for the business time of dinner.

The watch had been specially adjusted according to the clock in Yuan Zhou's restaurant. There was even a tiny interlude concerning that.

"This clock is slow, isn't it?" Wu Hai said sensitively.

Other customers beside him also echoed affirmatively, "Yes, it's slow. Boss Yuan, your clock is three minutes slower than Beijing Time."

"Humm. The clock has been working for so many years," with a nod, Yuan Zhou said bluntly.

"I can help you to adjust the time. I'm able to handle this kind of spring wound clock." A customer said enthusiastically.

In order to prove his word, he specially revealed the spring wound watch on his wrist.

"No need. It's too high to reach," Yuan Zhou looked at the clock that almost reached the ceiling and said dumbly.

"I can provide a ladder." Man Man put up her hand.

It seemed that they all volunteered to offer help to make the time

right. What a joke! If they could manage to adjust it three minutes earlier, they would likewise wait for three minutes less. From this perspective, it was merely an easy job to adjust the clock.

Even if it was a spring wound clock and even hung at the top of the wall, the foodies were no way to stop.

"It's unnecessary. I feel it's fairly good that way. Then you guys can stay here for three minutes more," said Yuan Zhou earnestly.

"It truly makes sense. But why do I feel something is off?" Man Man looked at other companions with puzzlement.

As for those companions of hers, they didn't find anything wrong in that short instant. As a result, Yuan Zhou muddled through.

As a matter of fact, the total business time neither increased nor decreased. After all, Yuan Zhou opened and closed the restaurant as per his own clock time. He didn't open the restaurant according to Beijing Time nor closed it according to his own clock time. Therefore, the total business time still remained the same.

Smart and clever as Wu Hai was, he specially bought a watch and made it the same time to that of Yuan Zhou's restaurant.

The three minutes before breakfast was an extraordinarily tough time, especially for Wu Hai who had only drunk plain boiled water and didn't eat anything for lunch.

"Time for dinner, everybody," said Zhou Jia at the last second before the dinner hours.

"Shoop shoop". The first ten customers got seated immediately as if they had used the skill of sliding over the water. They seemed to be waiting for nothing but ordering the dishes.

Fortunately, Zhou Jia was quite used to that.

Actually, these people were truly like those elderly men and women who went to buy the vegetables when the supermarket opened the door.

Every morning, the supermarkets would sell vegetables at discounted prices like the Chinese cabbage at 0.25 RMB/kg. Having once worked as a cashier in a supermarket, Zhou Jia felt they resembled those old people.

Every time they came to Yuan Zhou's restaurant for meals, the seemingly tepid and urbane white-collar workers moved far extraordinarily fast as if they had eaten a magical elixir.

"Good evening, you are back." Yuan Zhou caught sight of Wu Hai who sat opposite to him very easily.

"Humm. Get me all the new dishes, please," said Wu Hai generously.

"You can't finish them." Yuan Zhou refused flatly.

"Ho Ho. You don't know my appetite at all and you don't know what the genuine strength is, either," stroking his mustaches, Wu Hai said with contempt.

"You can't finish them." Yuan Zhou still answered him with the same words.

"I only drank water at noon and didn't eat anything else after the breakfast. I want to eat the new dishes." Wu Hai emphasized.

"Look at the menu. Some new dishes aren't available now," said Yuan Zhou after he kept silent for a while.

Wu Hai took a deep breath and then said, "Please get me all the new dishes available right now."

"Only the two dishes of Dongpo Pig Knuckle and Smoked Fish Silver Thread Noodles." Yuan Zhou hadn't much patience to others except Wu Hai, who was considered to be half his apprentice.

He didn't really want to admit that he once had a special apprentice that cooked dishes with a painting brush.

"It's too little. Where's the Honey Tremella?" Wu Hai asked.

"It depends on the mood of bees." Yuan Zhou still gave the same answer as before.

"Then what's the mood the bees like today?" asked Wu Hai naively.

"How do I know the mood of bees? I'm only a chef." Yuan Zhou looked at Wu Hai with a perplexed sight.

He suspected that this guy had become foolish due to great hunger.

"..." For the first meal that Wu Hai came back for, he was choked by Yuan Zhou.

"Let me eat first, please. Apart from the two new dishes ordered just now, please get me a serving of plain cooked rice and a cup of watermelon juice." Wu Hai was finally defeated by the growling stomach and then ordered his dishes, pretending that he didn't notice Yuan Zhou's sight. The words of Yuan Zhou was naturally neglected directly.

"Haw Haw. A serving of Dongpo Pig Knuckle, plain cooked rice and watermelon juice for me, please." Ling Hong knew there was usually gravy in the dish of pig knuckle.

With the gravy eaten together with the rice and the refreshing and ice-cold watermelon juice cutting the grease, they were definitely the perfect match.

"Ok. One moment, please." After a nod, Yuan Zhou turned

around and went to prepare the dishes. As for the payment, Zhou Jia would handle it.

After he went back to the kitchen, Yuan Zhou straightforwardly prepared the Dongpo Pig Knuckle first, which had actually already been in process. Of course, he needed to prepare some more as the number of customers waiting outside was always increasing.

The pork couldn't be washed with hot water, otherwise it would lose its intrinsic fragrance. From washing to cooking, this dish required way too many intricate processing steps. For each and every procedure, Yuan Zhou treated it with great earnest.

Ten minutes later, Yuan Zhou well prepared the dishes and sent Zhou Jia to carry to them.

"Here are the dishes for you two," while carrying the dishes to them, Zhou Jia said.

Luckily they sat close to each other and both couldn't wait to savor the new dishes. They just went up and helped Zhou Jia to carry all dishes out.

Dongpo Pig Knuckle was the most eye-catching one. A pig knuckle that looked as heavy as 1 kg was placed on the plate. It appeared to be fairly thick and was truly the good news to the meat-eaters.

The shape of the pig knuckle was still as same as usual, but just

appeared extraordinarily yummy. The red glossy gravy was poured over the pig knuckle and flowed out surrounding it. The plate used was the simplest white plate.

However, the edges of the plate was decorated with some green leaves of grass, which well contrasted the pig knuckle.

"It looks really nice and fairly thick," Ling Hong said that after he watched it carefully.

"My boss says to eat it up as soon as possible," Zhou Jia reminded them timely at the side.

"Really? For what?" Ling Hong instantly got curious. Then he asked, leaving Wu Hai there eating his own dishes.

"Sorry, my boss didn't tell me about that," Zhou Jia said courteously.

"Well, alright. I will ask him personally later." Ling Hong shrugged and didn't bother Zhou Jia anymore.

"Thank you." Zhou Jia thanked him and then turned to greet other customers.

At that time, Wu Hai was slightly satisfied after finishing the Smoked Fish Silver Thread Noodles. After that, he took the chopsticks and reached for the steaming hot Dongpo Pig Knuckle that he had been looking forward to.

Chapter 281: Glistening Posturing

At that time, Wu Hai became slightly satisfied after finishing the Smoked Fish Silver Thread Noodles. After that, he took the chopsticks and reached for the steaming hot Dongpo Pig Knuckle that he had been looking forward to.

The major characteristic of Dongpo Pig Knuckle were its thick meat and the alluring flavor deep in the bones. During ancient times, it was even called the celestial meat.

As a literate person, Wu Hai knew something about that.

"Let me savor the taste of the celestial meat now." Wu Hai picked a piece of pork lightly and stuffed it directly into his mouth.

Then he discovered that although the pig knuckle appeared incomparably soft, it wasn't actually easy to break. When he picked it with the chopsticks, the fat and lean meat still remain stuck together. He took it closer to himself and then found a layer of fat that wasn't oily right under the skin.

"Suo". With a light lick, that layer of fat directly melted in his mouth and tasted incomparably delicious. Moreover, it wasn't greasy at all but was instead quite refreshing and pleasant, bringing with it the intrinsically typical fragrance of pork.

"Yum!" Wu Hai stroked his mustaches and then stuffed the entire piece into his mouth.

After a slight bite, he first touched the pork skin that wrapped the lean meat. It left people the feeling of a colloidal matter with a mellow texture. While munching, it tasted smooth with a barely noticeable chewiness. But when it got to the lean meat in the middle, it had a sense of elasticity. Meanwhile, it tasted neither too dry nor too greasy as if it hadn't touched the oil at all. The lean meat just melted upon entering the mouth.

"Ba Ji Ba Ji". Wu Hai couldn't spare even some time to notice the plain cooked rice at the side.

As for the pork hock weighing 1 kilo, Wu Hai was never worried that he can't finish it himself. He indicated that he could just eat up another 1 kilo. This pork hock was really too small.

Ling Hong was just one step away from holding it up with his hands and gulping it down.

"Gee? Is this edible too? Wonderful." Just as Wu Hai got to the central part and thought it would be the bone, planning to skip it first and then lick it after eating the meat up, he nevertheless found it was actually an amber-like stuff, like a soft fruit jelly that was wrapped inside.

It would be even better if it was edible. Not having time to feel curious, he directly stuffed it into his mouth. Instantly, he felt a surge of refreshing taste. It was absolutely different from the single pork and meanwhile combined the merits of both. Incomparably delicious!

Ling Hong beside him had also gotten to this bone that turned to be not. "It's surprisingly not the bone. What an amazing idea!" While eating, he didn't forget to sigh with emotion.

"Look. There are no bones in the pork hock cooked by Yuan Zhou." Other customers at the side who had been watching Ling Hong and Wu Hai eating immediately noticed that.

Although they were unable to afford it, it was no problem for them to look at it.

"Indeed. Its color is like the amber and it's just so beautiful. Furthermore, it appears soft and smooth." Girls were usually more attentive and careful.

"You'll know the taste after having it in the mouth." A confident but arrogant voice sounded suddenly.

It turned out to be said by the man who had originally caught much attention of others. Now that he got his turn, he said directly when he heard the discussion.

"What a joke! How could I afford it at such a high price?" Some customers answered dumbly in the heart.

The price was clearly marked on the price list as, Dongpo Pig Knuckle, 2080 RMB /serving.

It was even more expensive than the tea egg. Finally, the tea egg could remove the title of the most expensive dish now and retire after winning its well-deserved merits.

However, this arrogant man whose hair was standing upright was really a rich guy. He straightway ordered his dishes, "Dongpo Pig Knuckle, plain cooked rice, Translucent Beef Slices, Silk Twined Rabbit and Jinling Grass as well as a serving of Phoenix-Tail Prawns."

"Sir, we have a rule in our restaurant that no food is allowed to waste. So?" Seeing the man order so many dishes, Zhou Jia reminded warmly.

"I know I would be blacklisted if I waste any food. But don't worry, I can eat them up. I'm a man with many muscles," the man said confidently.

"Alright. Payment first, please." Zhou Jia calculated the price and reported to him. The man also chose to make the bank transfer. But his account name was a little strange. It was surprisingly an anonymous debit card.

Of course, Zhou Jia didn't know much about it. Well, neither did Yuan Zhou.

Therefore, Zhou Jia didn't reveal any different expressions. After confirming receipt of the payment, she directly reported the dish to Yuan Zhou.

It would naturally arouse people's interest to order that many dishes alone. However, the man didn't actually care about others' opinion and just got seated unhurriedly to wait for his dishes.

With Yuan Zhou's cooking speed, it was naturally all done quite quickly. Within about 20 minutes, all of his dishes were served. Of course, the man likewise tasted the dishes one after another very carefully and attentively.

The previous arrogant confidence also diminished a lot.

The last dish that he ate was the plain cooked rice eaten together with the gravy in Dongpo Pig Knuckle, which was fairly appetizing.

However, he suddenly heard a remark that made him want to laugh when he had just finished the dish.

"What good is the pig knuckle? I have already been fed up with it on various banquets which always include this dish. There isn't any technical content for this particular dish. It's still the Golden Fried Rice that requires the intricate craftsmanship. Get me another serving of Egg Fried Rice," the person said quite confidently.

Before Wu Hai could find time to say something and as Ling Hong had just finished the meal, the arrogant man uttered straightforwardly with the apparently insolent manner.

"Ho Ho. If you can't afford it, please don't talk rubbish. Why don't you order one serving for a try and compare it with the things that aren't well processed like those common offal?"

"Pardon?" The man was made dumbfounded immediately. This person might have only wanted to act cool. But coincidentally, he was heard by the several people at the same time.

"First of all, the pork hock was called the celestial meat in ancient times. It's common sense." The man paused for a while and then continued.

"The words of pork hock also have a meaning of blessing. Alike to modern people, the ancients were also quite interesting. Ever from Tang Dynasty, people who passed the highest imperial examinations would always ask for a peer calligrapher to inscribe his name in red on the Great Wild Goose Pagoda of Cien Temple in Chang'an, the current capital. It meant that he made it.

Once he spoke, he brought out some uncommon knowledge. Therefore, all the customers on site, no matter they were eating or not, started to listen to him carefully.

With a strong aura from the inside out, this person revealed a manner of "I'm well-educated and knowledgeable. You just listen to me."

Seeing everybody listening to him earnestly, the man then continued contentedly, "What's related to the pig knuckle is that all his relatives and friends will give him pig knuckles as the

present before he goes to the capital for the examination. You know why? The two characters pronounce the same to 'inscribe the name in red color', meaning success in examination. Let me tell you something more about it."

After that, the man continued generously, "In south regions, the pig knuckle is also called Tibang, which has the same pronunciation with 'being listed as the successful candidate'. So people give it as the present in hope that the person can succeed in the examination."

"I see. I have never known there's so much knowledge about the pig knuckle. This really increases my knowledge." Most of the customers directly became dumbfounded. This person truly knew a lot.

Having been greatly surprised for quite a while, the man who had given the unfavorable remark finally reacted and felt he had grasped the main point.

"I'm talking about the technical content of the cooking, not the matter of pig knuckle." He regained some confidence.

"Tsk. Ignorance is so dreadful. You even dare to evaluate foods that you haven't eaten before." The arrogant man first took a look of contempt at the man. The sense of contempt was even revealed from every single strand of his hair that stood upright.

"Yeah, you are right. I haven't eaten it before. But Dongpo Pig Knuckle is nothing but a piece of meat being boiled in plain water

with some gravy and bland sauce added and then being simmered until it's well cooked. And of course, some other people would boil it first and then fry it in the edible oil until the skin wrinkled. Nothing else. I have been fed up with it." This man likewise knew much and immediately brought out the two cooking methods.

"Don't make the comparisons with those things that resemble the unprocessed offal. It's so disgusting." The man said with contempt.

"Forget it. Let me just tell you something about the pig knuckle cooked by Boss Yuan in case you feel too proud of yourself." Said the man confidently.

Yuan Zhou was also looking at him with great interest. Ordinary people wouldn't know his cooking method of the pig knuckle. Could this man bring it out?

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Chapter 282: Passive Acting-Cool Skills Triggered Again

"I'm only talking about the dish. What's the matter with you to swear at me?" The man wasn't really convinced of that. His face flushed due to the embarrassment.

"I'm sorry, but I just like telling the truth," the arrogant man said leisurely while stroking his short hair conveniently.

"Hey, you! ..." The man wanted to scold him, but before he could say anything, he was interrupted.

"Ok, don't talk nonsense anymore. Boss, please get me another serving of Dongpo Pig Knuckle.," the arrogant man said shrewdly.

"Sorry, sir. No one is allowed to order the same dish for more than once here at our restaurant." Yuan Zhou didn't answer the man. It was Zhou Jia who went up and explained to him.

Concerning the questions from others, Yuan Zhou never explained to them. It was mainly because he was too lazy to say anything.

"Gee? I order it for the popularization of science," the man said calmly.

"Sorry." Zhou Jia uttered words of apology, yet with a firm

manner.

"Forget it. Let me tell you guys directly. Luckily I still remember it." With one hand in his pocket, the man pointed at the empty plate in front of Ling Hong.

Hearing that, the surrounding customers became slightly speechless. Everybody could see the plate was even cleaner than that of being sucked by a dog, leaving no gravy at all.

"This pig knuckle has no bones inside and is stuffed with something else, which gave it the sweet and fragrant taste of seafood, yet without any fishy smell. Moreover, Boss Yuan didn't use any sugar, right?" the man said affirmatively.

"That's impossible. How could the pig knuckle becomes brownish red without sugar?" the person found a discrepancy to retort about instantly and then said loudly.

"You are so meddlesome." Seeing Yuan Zhou not intend to answer him, the man looked at the person with a manner of contempt.

"If I say he didn't use it, he surely didn't use it. With your knowledge quantity, you definitely don't know the word 'simmer'. But I'm not interested in being your Chinese teacher." The man took a look at the person and then continued saying.

"The pig knuckle is simmered by Boss Yuan with small fire in one

go from covering the pot to turning off the fire." When he found Yuan Zhou didn't retort him, the man continued with great confidence.

"The pig knuckles are different in sizes and the fire isn't likely to remain the same during the cooking process. Therefore, the pig knuckle will turn yellow if the fire is turned off too early and turn purple if the time is too long. Meanwhile, the fat will not be cooked perfectly and the lean meat will taste bad if the cover is taken off during the process. Only through his superb craftsmanship could the perfect red color be well displayed." Pointing at a Dongpo Pig Knuckle just served on the table, the man spoke with fervor and assurance.

"It's truly an accurate analysis. Although there's no sugar inside, it nevertheless tasted sweet. Awesome!" The girl who was just served with the pig knuckle straightforwardly picked a piece up and tasted it. After that, she shouted in surprise.

"It's Boss Yuan's craftsmanship that is so awesome." On the usually arrogant face of the man appeared the genuine admiration.

"That's right. It's Boss Yuan who's so awesome. And it naturally has nothing to do with you." The person was still unwilling to admit defeat. He directly spoke high of Boss Yuan.

"Self-consolation of a mediocre person." The man concluded quickly and accurately.

"I don't want to talk to you." The person didn't want to talk

much.

"Even a pig knuckle requires so many skills! What was the soft thing that I ate before?" A customer couldn't help doubting what he had experienced before.

They had also eaten the so-called Dongpo Pig Knuckle before in banquets. But now, everyone was doubting if the thing they had eaten was the same thing to that cooked by Boss Yuan.

It's much too elegant.

"It's said that something else is stuffed inside it." The customers tightly stared at the pig knuckle in front of the girl.

"It's surprisingly amber in color with a hint of transparency. So delicious!" The girl ate the central part of the pig knuckle, as was expected by all.

She then divided into the central part and the soft jelly-like thing was obediently picked up and wrapped in the meat. As soon as she put it into her mouth, the girl immediately praised profusely.

"Gee? What's this?" The customers all felt rather curious. Just when they wanted to ask the man who appeared impressive, they nevertheless found the man suddenly disappeared.

"When did he leave? He ran away immediately after acting cool. Damn it." The customers were slightly puzzled, but the delicacy in

sight seemed to be more important to them.

The man who had turned up arrogantly had indeed left. While he was walking out of the restaurant step by step, the customers were all looking at the pig knuckle that was praised miraculously. Therefore, no one noticed him leave.

At the other side, the girl ate up half of the pig knuckle just in a little while. Only after she paused with great difficulty did she say to her friend at the side.

"It's so tasty. I think I have made a mistake. This pig knuckle is a little small. Yuan Yuan, you can order something else." The girl decisively abandoned her friend and chose the food instead.

She had already forgotten the promise to eat it together.

"Alright. Get me a serving of the pig knuckle, too. And also the little Yuanxiao," said Yuan Yuan blankly.

"Er... Sorry, Yuanxiao is not a dish for dinner." Zhou Jia got surprised at first with the weird match and then answered.

"Then change it to Egg Fried Rice." Yuan Yuan changed another dish directly.

"Ok. One moment, please." Zhou Jia answered quickly.

"Humm." Yuan Yuan nodded the head.

Seeing the girl eat up the thing inside of the meat where the bone had formerly been mouthful by mouthful, the customers couldn't help asking, "What exactly is this? Is it the seafood as mentioned by the man?"

"What kind of seafood is like that?" A customer didn't believe that.

Usually, the seafood had the particular flavor, but this thing apparently didn't. Of course, he also might have added some flavorings. But the customers had no clue what it was although they thought for quite a while.

It surely wouldn't give them any satisfactory answer to ask Yuan Zhou about it.

"Wu Hai, why don't you tell us something about it since you have eaten the dish? I can't wait to know." So, they started to ask Wu Hai.

"Carrageen." Ling Hong answered with a complacent expression ahead of Wu Hai.

"Carrageen?" On the faces of the customers were all the manner of "Are you fu*king kidding with me?".

He spoke as if no one had known what the carrageen was.

Carrageen grew on stones along the coast of the Southeast regions. The plant grew thickly and had no branches. Its leaf was in the shape of that of willow while the root hairs were more than one foot long with the color alike to amber.

"Yes. The carrageen that has been boiled into gelatinous substance. I don't know what he has added, but it could be surprisingly coagulated together. Moreover, the texture is surprisingly so tender and smooth," Ling Hong sighed with emotion.

"The most important is that Boss Yuan didn't break the anadesma born with the bones at all. That way, he could make sure the gelatinous carrageen won't infiltrate into the meat. Hence, they can maintain their own tastes separately and meanwhile slightly merge together." Anyhow, Wu Hai had learned the culinary skills from Yuan Zhou for three days and hence discovered that quickly, not to mention he had originally been very careful.

"So that's how it is." The customers indicated one after another that they were convinced of the complicated procedures at last.

"Why do I suddenly feel this Dongpo Pig Knuckle worth more than 2000 RMB is not actually expensive?"

"Craftsmanship is rated by its price"

"How are you going to let me eat other Dongpo Pig Knuckles

later?" suddenly, one of the customers said that.

"I look forward to Boss Yuan cutting the shredded tofu noodle," suddenly, a man said that.

"That's true. With such a superb craftsmanship, he could have already cooked the Three-Nested Duck. Boss Yuan, when will you serve that dish?" This customer was also one that liked watching food program. He remembered this famous dish immediately.

"Later," Yuan Zhou answered earnestly this time.

"Ok. We'll wait." This customer said excitedly right away.

"It's really a bright idea! The craftsmanship is excellent and the taste is so marvelous. Boss Yuan, if you keep cooking like this, you will end up going against the heavens. If you continue improving like that, how should I do when I go out on business travel in future?" Ling Hong looked at Yuan Zhou with a frightened look.

"Whatever you want," answered Yuan Zhou squarely.

"Well, Boss Yuan, I can actually hire you. You follow me to go on business travel and I pay you 10,000 RMB every day." Hit by an inspiration, Ling Hong suddenly proposed.

"Wu Hai, what do you think?" All of a sudden, Yuan Zhou looked at Wu Hai beside him primly.

"Ling Hong, let's have a talk." Wu Hai stroked his mustaches and smiled.

"I'm just talking casually. Anyway, I'm not you," Ling Hong said indifferently.

He clearly knew how frightening Wu Hai was when somebody grabbed food from him. His messy art studio could simply prove that. Having been lucky to see it, Ling Hong indicated that he could take temporary setbacks.

"Humm. I know you are not as rich as me. Zhou Jia, get me another serving of Egg Fried Rice Set," Wu Hai said generously.

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Chapter 283: The Arrogant Man

"You say I don't have money?" Ling Hong felt it rather ridiculous. As a so-called the rich second-generation, did Wu Hai think he was short of money?

It was a little funny.

"I'll start to eat now." Wu Hai said simply and didn't answer Ling Hong anymore.

"Alright. You must have died from hunger in your previous existence. I'm leaving now. The envious sight of those people almost killed me." Ling Hong shrugged. Customers waiting outside had indeed waited for too long.

While Yuan Zhou's restaurant was bustling due to the new dishes, Wu Zhou was likewise doing publicity for Yuan Zhou free of charge at the other side.

"Wang Nan, shall we go to eat together?" Wu Zhou tilted his head and said to the person beside him.

The IT company where Wu Zhou worked belonged to a very large company and the office here was only a branch. The person beside him wore a short-sleeve checkered shirt and had a crew cut. His complexion appeared to be that of a typical programmer, being pale and weak.

This person had just joined in the company and was arranged to work under Wu Zhou by chance.

"Humm?" Wang Nan raised his head with a slower pace.

"Even if we are working overtime, we have to eat first. Man can't work without eating food. Let's go for the meal. I'm taking you to that small restaurant today and I'm sure you will be reluctant to leave." Wu Hai patted on his chest confidently.

"Huh, are you treating?" Zhao Yingjun raised the head and asked at the other side.

"Of course. Wang Nan is new here and naturally I will treat," Wu Zhou answered squarely.

However, he still felt a little heartache. The pocket money given by his girlfriend was going to become less again.

"You are really not a nice guy. You don't even treat this brother of yours." Zhao Yingjun said with an evil laugh.

"Go away. I'm asking Wang Nan now." Wu Hai waved his hand with a manner of contempt.

"Well, sorry. Thanks so much, but I don't want to go." On Wang Nan's pale face appeared a flush. He seemed to have made great efforts to refuse Wu Zhou.

"No need to hold back. This guy Wu was rarely so generous. Go now," Zhao Yingjun also tried to persuade him.

"Sorry." Wang Nan apologized numbly, not looking at the other person at all, with his head lowered.

"Huh, never mind. It's not a big event. You decide. Then we'll go to eat. Let's get together next time." Having caught sight of Wang Nan's decisive manner, Wu Zhou stopped persuading him and then said smilingly.

"I'm leaving. Don't you want to eat? Come on." Wu Zhou signaled Zhao Yingjun to follow him quickly.

Zhao Yingjun nodded the head and cleared away the stuff before he stood up and walked out of the company with Wu Hai.

"Hooo. Sigh..." Seeing them leave, Wang Nan let out a sigh of relief and then sighed.

Having been here in the company for a week, he nevertheless only talked with Wu Zhou who was teaching him and Zhao Yingjun who's seated closer to him as well as with his senior leader.

"God knows if I can go back later," Wang Nan looked at the surroundings and said with a low voice.

After they walked out of the company, Zhao Yingjun was nevertheless a little dissatisfied, "This guy is too ... You know it, right?"

"Easy. He's only a little reserved." Wu Zhou answered, appearing to know him very much.

"Do you think so?" Zhao Yingjun was a little suspicious.

After all, Wang Nan seldom talked in normal times and he really didn't know about his character.

Wu Zhou recalled the occasion when Wang Nan wanted to go to the bathroom last time. As he had just gave him a repair task, Wang Nan straightforwardly worked until the afternoon without telling him anything. If not that Wu Zhou saw him look not good and hence asked him, he would have never known about that.

Speaking of the reason, it was quite simple. He was too shy to say that, hence forced it back until the last minute. He seldom got along with other colleagues in normal times and thus knew only a few people even after one week, which was all seen by Wu Zhou.

"He does a good job and has a first-class ability. It's just that he's much too reserved and doesn't tell others when he has something in the heart. Probably, he hasn't got used to the new surroundings yet. He's said to be from the branch company of Lingnan district," Wu Zhou said to the point.

"He is working under you now. You naturally know him better than others do." Zhao Yingjun had essentially grumbled about the new staff for the sake of Wu Zhou. Anyway, it was good since the guy wasn't that kind of person.

"That guy is just too reserved. I'll definitely bring him to eat together next time. Men are easy to get along with during a meal," said Wu Zhou smilingly. With his easy-going temperament, Wu Zhou was very easy to get on.

"There's no problem for me as long as you stand treat. I heard a new dish has been served," Zhao Yingjun said with his usual shrewd look.

"Never think about it. My wife didn't give me too much pocket money." Whenever Wu Zhou spoke of Zhuang Xinmu, he appeared rather sweet and proud.

"You are so disgusting. I'm going now." As a single man for more than 20 years, he hated Wu Zhou who was always showing off his intimate relationship with his girlfriend most.

A single man required the care and protection of the whole society. People should also pay more attention to that currently, especially when it was almost the end of the year.

They talked while walking ahead. Wang Nan, nevertheless, took out a piece of bread and then ate it together with the yogurt and some dried beef for lunch. It seemed that he didn't intend to go out to have lunch. And even his expression showed that he was too

lazy to go out of the company.

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When it went to the midnight, Yuan Zhou watched out from the window of his own bedroom and saw Shen Min barely make the last bus. Only after that did he return to the desk and sit down.

Then he started to calculate the turnover that day and found it surprisingly higher than that in normal times by 30%.

"The guy Wu Hai is really a rich man and eats so much." Taking the extra money, Yuan Zhou inevitably thought of Wu Hai.

Nevertheless, the corner of his mouth slightly twitched, because this guy persisted to stay in his restaurant until the closing time of the pub and managed to scrounge some liquor from Chenwei.

Having calculated the money, Yuan Zhou heaved a sigh contentedly.

"It seems that I need to buy a house now." Yuan Zhou looked at the familiar surroundings around and suddenly sighed with emotion.

"Xi Xi Suo Suo". After searching for a while, Yuan Zhou took out a debit card. It was in gold color and said to be the Golden Card.

Of course, the reason why Yuan Zhou applied for this card was quite pure. With this card, he wouldn't be charged with the handling fee when he withdrew the money from a different bank. As for other additional services, he wasn't really clear about them.

"I can finally have my dream realized with this thing." Yuan Zhou smiled happily, not revealing any usually aloof manner.

After all, what Yuan Zhou had dreamed of was merely an ordinary life.

Open a small restaurant in the countryside.

Serve some delicious dishes of Egg Fried Rice, Clear Broth Noodle Soup, Translucent Beef Slices and Dongpo Pig Knuckle, which were all his favorite.

As long as they were cooked by himself, he wasn't picky at all. Besides, there must be a complete variety of different dishes.

Even if the business was booming, he would also shut the door at the designated time.

Then, drive his Ferrari back to the villa 500m downtown.

Enjoy the ordinary life without saying any single word.

"Humm, I'm always so low profile." Taking the debit card in his

hand, Yuan Zhou said dumbly.

Buying a house was a great event. After making the plan for a while in silence, he then washed up and went to bed.

It had been a little cold by Mid-September. The dog, Broth, had likewise enjoyed the warmth of a woolen blanket. At its special rest place outside Yuan Zhou's restaurant, a clean woolen blanket was right under Broth.

It wasn't bought by Yuan Zhou, of course. Broth had obtained it though its difficult interactions with others.

A dark shadow, with a rapid speed, flashed into the back alley of Yuan Zhou's restaurant. Lying prone to the ground, Broth didn't bark.

"I'm followed by the dark night and accompanied by the moon. What an elegant scene!" A clear sound broke the silence of the quiet night.

There in the darkness appeared a big and tall man whose short hair was all standing upright. Wearing neat sportswear, he strode forward quickly yet without any sound. In the moonlight, he was found to be the man who acted cool in Yuan Zhou's restaurant at daytime.

The arrogant man had a clear-cut target. He walked straight to the back door of Yuan Zhou's restaurant and stopped there,

remaining still.

He was apparently preparing to do something evil!

Chapter 284: Thief of Delicious Foods

"It turns out to be true that the back door is weaker." Every movement of the arrogant man was full of caution and his voice was likewise lowered especially.

The arrogant man looked at the lock to the back door carefully.

He took out a flashlight and turned it on after a sound of "Pa". Then, the light shined right into the keyhole. After that, the man moved closer and started to observe the shape inside very carefully.

It was a long time...

After a light sound of turning over the clothes, the arrogant man took out a clip that looked like girls' hair clip from the pocket. But it was only the shape that resembled the hair clip, as in the next second the man straightforwardly bent it into a shape of a key neatly.

"Aha. How deft my craftsmanship is!" While speaking of that, the man inserted the key-like clip into the keyhole.

After quite a while, he still didn't hear any clear sound of the door being unlocked from the keyhole.

"Interesting." Having taken out the clip, the man found that it didn't transform at all, which made him a little surprised.

He then inserted the key-like clip into the keyhole again, but still, there wasn't any reaction after a long while.

"So strange. Even if the door can't be unlocked, the clip isn't likely to keep its original shape." Taking the intact clip in his hand, the man got a little puzzled.

"Ta Ta Ta", he walked slowly around the door for a few circles.

"Is it a dummy lock?" He said suspiciously.

Meanwhile, he reached out his hand and prepared to twist the doorknob. After a sound of "Ka Ca", the doorknob revolved as expected, but still, the door wasn't opened.

"It's truly a dummy lock. I have become more expectant now." Instead of discouragement, the man revealed an expression of excitement on his face.

He was a thief, a thief of delicious foods. He liked stealing the tasty food ingredients most. As long as he was interested in any or had eaten any, he would inevitably go to steal it. Naturally, he took himself as an elegant thief.

In a martial arts novel of Gu Long, there was a role called Chu Liuxiang, who did very well in light feet and had successfully stolen numerous treasures. People called him the Fragrant Handsome Man. Nevertheless, he was a more tasteful person who

stole only the rare, delicious and superb food ingredients.

Besides, it couldn't be called 'stealing' as he had paid money for that. The money was just placed on the azure stone countertop where the cook Yuan Zhou processed the food ingredients and was definitely worth of the value of the precious food ingredients.

So he especially came to savor the dishes out of genuine admiration and then implemented the deeds of theft.

However, he came across a little problem now. Of course, it wasn't a big problem for such an experienced man as him. He had even been to stars hotels for more than a few times.

"Since there's no lock, let me change another way." The man then took out a folded small shovel from the coat. The sharp end of the shovel gleamed the cold light.

"Up." The man lifted up the big blue flagstone in front of the back door.

Of course, it wasn't because he had infinite superhuman strength. He just made the preparations beforehand.

For example, he didn't try to get into the room from the front door as the dog Broth was guarding there. It was more difficult to cope with a smart dog than an obedient stone.

The blue flagstone was put on one side lightly and then the soil

appeared. Only then did the man smile contentedly. He put on the leather gloves, took the shovel and began to dig the soil. Of course, he did that quietly.

Despite such a big event at the back door, Yuan Zhou was right sleeping soundly on the second floor and was even dreaming. Crowds of beauties were not on his concern right now. It was Yuan Zhou's current dream to unblock the system and become the master chef.

"It's truly soft. It seems that I can get into the room very quickly." The man had already noticed that the floor in Yuan Zhou's restaurant wasn't ceramic tiles, but the very simple blue flagstones, although they appeared to fit together perfectly.

But who was he? He was the thief of delicious foods that specially looked for the aperture and tried to get inside. As long as he could dig through the floor, he would have his target reached easily.

"Ding". As he dug closer to the back door of Yuan Zhou's restaurant and prepared to dig forward again, there suddenly passed a sound of collision.

"Crushed stones." The man didn't really care about it. With his hands in gloves, he reached them out into the hole and wanted to take the stones out.

The moment he reached out his hands, however, the man got slightly dumbfounded.

"What's this?" After his hands reached into the hole, he found it was a flat surface inside and still remained the same no matter he moved upward or downward.

"What kind of stone can be so big?" The man was reluctant to believe in the heresy. He carefully excavated the soil around the hole.

"Damn it!" Having excavated the soil and saw the truth, the man finally couldn't help talking dirty.

What appeared in front of him was surprisingly a wall. If it was merely an ordinary wall, he could explain the foundation was well built. But the truth was that the wall in front of him was metallic and moreover, it sounded "Peng Peng" when being knocked.

"Hua Hua Hua", he felt stunned for a while. Then, he suddenly took the shovel and continue digging the soil while he was grumbling with a low voice, "Let me check if it's all like that."

Then he turned to the left, reaching the wall where Yuan Zhou's restaurant continued to the neighboring store and the wall of Yuan Zhou's pub on the other side. However, he found he was way too naive.

"These are all damn metal walls. I'm merely one that steals food ingredients from this small restaurant by the street. I'm not stealing gold bars." Looking at the bright metal in sight, the man felt rather speechless. He wouldn't be curious if this kind of thing appeared in JP Morgan in New York.

But now... It wasn't a matter of curiosity anymore.

Who exactly would build metal under the walls of his house up to a few meters deep? Judging from the sound, he felt the thickness would be no less than 20cm. What exactly was it? It wasn't actually defending against the theft.

"It must be built for defending against the missiles." The man threw the shovel and became speechless.

His arrogant face was slightly twitching. Having reached so many places, he bumped into such a small restaurant for the first time.

He could only make a wry smile.

However, he didn't know that ten or twenty meters down into the ground were all chromium titanium alloy as thick as 20cm. The hardness of the chromium was 9 while the titanium had the best ductility and was most unlikely to be damaged.

Such metals wrapped everywhere around Yuan Zhou's restaurant. In other words, even the walls and roof of Yuan Zhou's restaurant were protected by such metals. Except the White House, no other places presumably had better protective measures. It was just that Yuan Zhou's restaurant had no weapons.

Since everything was provided by the system, Yuan Zhou was never afraid of the noise from outside. After all, the sound-proof

materials added into the walls by the system were just excellent.

Therefore, the system would only tell him to quit the attempt under such circumstances even if the man wanted to dig a hole into the restaurant.

"It seems that I have only to cope with the dog." Having patted the dust off his clothes, the man didn't really give up.

"I almost made a trench." With a smile of self-mockery, the man began to make Yuan Zhou's back door back to what it had been.

This work was nevertheless done deftly by him.

At about 3:30 a.m., everything was back to normal. The man tidied up his stuff and confirmed everything was packed before he left.

As for Yuan Zhou, he woke up at the regular time. He had formed a good biological clock.

As soon as he woke up, there was a big news waiting for him.

The system displayed, "Host, somebody tried to get into the restaurant from the back door and steal things."

"Pardon? What happened so early in the morning?" Yuan Zhou became dumbfounded.

What kind of theft did the system notice? Was it for money? This was way too audacious. Since the lunar New Year hadn't yet arrived, did the thief want to steal for the holiday?

The system displayed, "Host, please be cautious of the safety."

"Err... Am I in danger?" Speaking of safety, Yuan Zhou trembled.

The system displayed, "There's a thief of delicious foods. He specially steals the top-notch food ingredients."

Then, the system showed him the information of the thief of delicious foods and the video of the situation outside of the back door last night. It was as clear as in daytime. After watching the video, Yuan Zhou became speechless.

"It's surprisingly this guy. System, did you stop him?" Suddenly, Yuan Zhou thought of the problem.

The system displayed, "The updated sound-proof wall could prevent thieves from getting inside effectively."

"Sound-proof?" Yuan Zhou was a little puzzled.

However, Yuan Zhou was more worried about the dog Broth now. After all, that man had said that he wouldn't give up.

Chapter 285: How to Wittily Play Cute

"System, there's no problem with our defensive measures, right?" Having gotten along with the system for so long, Yuan Zhou also became tricky, which naturally indicated that the several books concerning the art of speaking indeed worked.

So he bound the system with himself using the word 'our' this time.

The system displayed, "This request is in compliance with the regulation."

"That's good. This work is given to you then," Yuan Zhou said with quite a relieved look.

After that, Yuan Zhou immediately went to wash up quickly as he had prepared to go out and check the situation outside.

"Dong Dong Dong", Yuan Zhou walked downstairs hurriedly.

"Zhi Ya", he opened the back door.

With Yuan Zhou's sharp eyes, he could easily find out there were many flaws on the ground that seemed to be same as original, even if the system didn't show him the video.

Both the exposure of the inner soil and the changed blue

flagstone proved his speculations.

"How surprising! This guy dug out a tunnel. Did he watch too many marmots doing so?" Looking at the ground, Yuan Zhou couldn't help grumbling.

He checked it carefully again and then became convinced. It was tidied really cleanly. If not for his sharp eyes, the tiny flaws were truly likely to be concealed. However, he still wanted to grumble.

"He probably didn't think a small restaurant would have the security guard. Ho Ho." He looked at the keyhole that had no traces at all.

After a sound of "Peng", Yuan Zhou shut the door. Habitually, he went out to jog. No matter what happened, morning exercises couldn't be dropped.

It was the key stage to become a prince charming.

Of course, Yuan Zhou went specifically to the dog, Broth, when he walked to the entrance.

"Hey, don't eat anything given by others casually," Yuan Zhou jogged on the spot at the entrance of his restaurant and said to Broth at the same time.

"..." Broth just lay on the ground dumbly and didn't respond to him.

"Listen. Don't eat anything casually," Yuan Zhou said again to it.

Then Broth seemed to take a look at Yuan Zhou with its dark eyes.

"It's good that you heard me." Yuan Zhou felt the dog could definitely understand him. After all, this little thing was sometimes as smart as humans.

In the process of jogging, he recalled Broth's performance that he had seen last time.

It was in the morning. Yuan Zhou went out to buy the radishes and prepared to sculpt them, as usual. When he pulled the small cart and walked not far, he saw Broth playing cute over there.

Naturally, he stopped to watch the scene.

From where he stood, he could clearly see the dog Broth in the side street.

He first saw two girls walking nearer from a distance while talking and laughing. At that time, Broth went up and squatted down in front of them.

It raised its hairy head and rolled its black eyes and occasionally made a sound of "Wu Wu", looking to be extraordinarily lovable.

"Wow, so cute. It's surprisingly a Maltese dog." Immediately, the two girls were attracted. They directly crouched and beckoned Broth to them.

Broth ran a few steps forward at once and let out a barking sound of "woof woof" when it approached the girls. Then, it stood up and wagged its tail.

"Li Li, do you still have anything to eat?" While a girl was stroking the obedient dog excitedly, she asked the other girl who's also stroking it happily.

"Yes. Let's feed it." The other one immediately answered. She unzipped the handbag and took out some food and then started to feed Broth.

As was always the case, it might be humans' natural instincts to feed cute animals whenever they saw one.

In the same way, the dog Broth cheated some foods from several passers-by. Of course, Broth only aimed at young girls or girls that were accompanied by their boyfriends.

Girls were emotional creatures. Under such circumstances, they wouldn't think of anything else but just fed the dog.

In a little while, however, it no longer ate the food offered by a girl and even let out a continuous sound of "woof woof". It just

refused to eat the ham sausage sent to its mouth.

"Let's leave. See, it doesn't like eating anymore," said the young man beside her impatiently.

"How is it possible? All dogs like eating the ham sausage." The girl insisted on feeding it.

"The dog might be already full." The young man made up a reason casually.

"No, that's impossible. If it's full, why does it lick my hand? You go to buy something else and let me try to feed it." Having been licked on her palm, the girl felt an itch and couldn't help giggling.

"A mere dog is even fastidious about food," the young man said discontentedly.

"Hurry up. How cute the dog is! What about we raising it?" the girl proposed on a whim.

"Do you think there's more space in our house to raise a dog?" The man rolled his eyes and almost got mad.

At least, Yuan Zhou had seen him roll his eyes more than once when the girl stroked the dog.

"Then why don't you hurry up to buy something?" The girl was a

little upset, but was soon amused by Broth. Then she began to urge her boyfriend.

"What should I buy? It doesn't even eat the ham sausage. I think this dog is going against nature," said the man roughly.

"You can buy some water and some other food. Hurry, please." The girl then told him what to buy.

Only then did the man go to buy them helplessly. After a while, he truly returned with the mineral water and some bread.

"The bread is for you and the water is for the dog." The young man instructed.

However, the girl paid no attention to that. She directly unpacked the bread and tried to feed the dog. Not until she moved the water to its mouth did it appear to be interested. Yet as the dog was unable to drink water from the bottle directly, the girl went to borrow the paper cup personally and then fed Broth.

"It's surprisingly asking for water." Yuan Zhou likewise supported his forehead, "It's simply not a dog and even smarter than humans."

Broth never fawned on males. It only targeted at girls and asked for food by playing cute, rolling on the ground and behaving in a spoiled manner. It was good at that kind of trick.

Therefore, Yuan Zhou believed that Broth could comprehend human's word and specially went to instruct it this time. It was a dog that could almost challenge humans on wits.

Having returned after jogging, Yuan Zhou began to prepare the breakfast. The breakfast today was a new dish that had been tested by Sun Ming, the Sweet Osmanthus Sandwiched Yuanxiao.

He made some Yuanxiao beforehand, which could be eaten directly after boiling. It was convenient and quick. For the time being, however, the most important thing was to fill the belly.

Once the restaurant was opened later today, Wu Hai would be the first customer for sure.

"Morning, one serving of breakfast, please," Wu Hai walked into the restaurant leisurely and said with a relieved look.

"One serving for me, too." In the wake of Wu Hai was an unexpected person, the arrogant man. Just three hours ago, Yuan Zhou saw him in the video provided by the system. He merely changed a set of clothes and still looked arrogant.

"Ok. One moment, please. We are serving the Sweet Osmanthus Sandwiched Yuanxiao this morning." Zhuo Jia had started to introduce the breakfast before Yuan Zhou reacted.

"It's surprisingly a new dish. I'm so lucky in the early morning." Wu Hai was very happy. He stroked his small mustaches and then

sat down, waiting for the dish.

The arrogant man nevertheless didn't change at all. He got seated and waited to eat his dish swaggeringly, without any embarrassment for being a thief last night.

In a little while, Yuan Zhou got the two servings of Yuanxiao prepared. He carried up one serving to the arrogant man personally.

"Here's your Sweet Osmanthus Sandwicheed Yuanxiao. Please enjoy." Yuan Zhou set down the dish and signaled he could eat now.

"Thank you." The arrogant man nodded the head calmly and naturally. Then he took the spoon and prepared to eat.

"The sewer pipe is actually on the left. You just dug to the discharge trough," Yuan Zhou suddenly said solemnly.

"Alright, I got it. It won't happen next time." Without pausing for one second, the arrogant man straightforwardly answered.

"Humm." After a nod, Yuan Zhou turned around and went back to the kitchen and then continued to prepare the dish.

The arrogant man likewise started to taste the delicious dish without any embarrassment.

The two persons were virtually the strangest restaurant owner and thief...

Chapter 286: Most Anticipated Tiny Restaurant

Breakfast time soon passed. Sitting in the restaurant alone, Yuan Zhou was thinking about how to complete the mission. Concerning level-ups, he was rather proactive.

Leveling up meant the mastery of new cooking techniques, the increase of his income, and the unlocking of tables and chairs. The benefits were self-evident.

[How to become the landmark restaurant in the gourmet map?] Yuan Zhou took out his phone and typed a long succession of characters.

As soon as the word was inputted, a bunch of answers popped up on the web page. However, they were all unrelated answers.

Only one of them could be considered to be reliable.

[That depends on the customer flow and the popularity.], from Comrade Lei Hong.

"There should be no problem with the customer flow of my restaurant. Yet, the popularity isn't as much as the customer flow." Yuan Zhou considered carefully.

As the system didn't allow him to publicize by himself, the

popularity was only confined to this district or worse, in the neighboring areas. It wouldn't be so good in farther areas, not even so good as World Foodie Hotel which was about half an hour drive away.

"Publicity by word of mouth is slow, but has firm effects." Yuan Zhou seemed lost in thought.

"Ling Ling Ling, Ling Ling Ling". Just as Yuan Zhou was thinking about this matter, the phone suddenly rang.

"Sun Ming?" Yuan Zhou picked the phone up and found it was his brother that he had just contacted last night.

"What's wrong?" Yuan Zhou asked straightforwardly.

"I think you, Pi, have to treat me to a meal again." Once the phone was put through, Sun Ming's voice passed through with excitement from the other end.

"Sorry, I won't," Yuan Zhou refused bluntly.

"You won't say so after you hear this news from me," said Sun Ming with certainty.

"Really?" Yuan Zhou knew that Sun Ming wanted to tantalize him by not telling him directly. However, he wouldn't be fooled.

"Aren't you curious?" Although Sun Ming knew that Yuan Zhou didn't like guessing, he still couldn't help teasing him.

"No, I am not." While holding the phone with one hand, he tidied up the azure stone countertop with the other.

"You are really uninteresting. No wonder you have no girlfriend." Sun Ming grumbled.

"No. It's just because the girls are too reserved nowadays and they are nervous on seeing such a perfect prince charming like me," Yuan Zhou retorted seriously.

"Ho Ho. Pi, do you know your nickname?" Sun Ming felt it really necessary for him to make his brother clear-headed.

"Of course. Are you not feeling well today?" Yuan Zhou expressed his dislike for Sun Ming's low IQ in a euphemistic manner.

Was there anybody else that asked another person's nickname while calling it by himself?

"Forget it. It's not bad if you think that way. Otherwise, you wouldn't be in a mood to run the restaurant," Sun Ming said with deep empathy.

"What the matter?" Yuan Zhou had almost finished tidying up the kitchen, but Sun Ming still hadn't spoke his point.

"Good news. Seem like you are to be awarded." Sun Ming was reminded of his purpose suddenly.

"Awarded? I have never taken part in any competition," Yuan Zhou frowned and said with puzzlement.

"This one is absolutely unusual. They don't actually invite people to take part in, but just decide on the awards by themselves and then their chief signs before the final result is released." Sun Ming explained roughly.

However, Yuan Zhou still didn't get it.

"What does that mean?"

"The Most Anticipated Restaurant. The award is yours for this quarter of the year." Speaking of that, Sun Ming revealed full of pride in his tone.

This award was really not easy to get, but his brother made it. Only thinking of that made him feel excited.

"Where is the result released?" Yuan Zhou asked curiously.

"On their website, of course. Besides, they don't notify the victor specifically." With a mysterious look, Sun Ming revealed a tone of "Hurry up. Come to ask me."

"Humm. How do you know?" Sometimes, Yuan Zhou was very good at the interpersonal communications. Just like this time, he offered Sun Ming an opportunity to act cool.

"Of course I inquired about that with my strong social connections. It's still in process and will be released soon. You can enjoy many benefits after you get it." The apparent pride in his tone could be clearly captured at the other end of the phone.

"Can I be the regional landmark restaurant with that award? You know, it's the one in gourmet map." Hit by an inspiration, Yuan Zhou asked immediately.

"No problem, naturally. This one is more important than that one. They just don't enjoy the same circles, but we foodies all hold this one in esteem." Sun Ming felt he should be proud to be a tasteful foodie.

"I will treat you to a meal," Yuan Zhou suddenly said.

"See? I told you at the beginning you would treat me to a meal." Sun Ming got more complacent now.

"Ok, no problem. That's it, bye." Yuan Zhou behaved as if to burn the bridge after crossing it.

"You brat!" Sun Ming was still saying something when the busy signal of "Du Du Du" passed from the other end of the phone.

"Indeed, it's 59 seconds. Damn obsessive compulsive disorder!!!" Sun Ming's indignation couldn't be expressed with just three exclamation symbols.

According to his habit, Yuan Zhou usually hung off the phone at the last second of one minute, namely the 59th second when he called others. Likewise, he basically hung off the phone at the 59th second after the proper business was said when he answered the phone. He explained euphemistically that he wouldn't give China Mobile the opportunity to earn more money.

Smart as Sun Ming was, however, he had already seen through him. It was merely an excuse to describe his obsessive compulsive disorder. Of course, Yuan Zhou might really do that to save money. After all, Yuan Zhou loved money very much, but meanwhile he was trustworthy to his friends.

Having hung off the telephone, Yuan Zhou revealed a smile, "System, could the mission be considered to be completed now?"

The system displayed, "The gourmet map of next month is the only standard of the mission completion."

"It's so inflexible. Even if you are the powerful system, you have to be flexible," Yuan Zhou said earnestly.

The system displayed, "Host, since you have done very well since the first mission, I hereby awarded you a special reward."

"Gee? Wow, there's reward. When do you become so generous?" With a suspicious expression, Yuan Zhou began to think deeply about the system's word.

Every time the system offered any reward on its own initiative, there was basically no good thing. Therefore, Yuan Zhou had got used to making the best of his wisdom and preparing to see through the trick of the system at that time.

There was no exception either this time. Soon, he found that the system was surprisingly sneering at him for being square. After all, many rules of the restaurant was set by himself. But luckily, it was Yuan Zhou himself who stimulated the system. It was likewise great if there was really any reward.

"Is there really a reward?" Yuan Zhou asked suspiciously.

The system displayed, "The royal jelly can be received every five days."

"Can I receive it today?" asked Yuan Zhou directly.

The system displayed, "Yes, you can."

Only then did Yuan Zhou reveal a smile. Now he could finally invite Huang Ling and her younger brother to come for meal.

Yuan Zhou felt quite happy as he could keep his word at once. At the other side, Huang Ling was also very happy. She had been notified last night that somebody would send the subsidy to her on the following day personally.

"Dong Dong Dong". Speak of the devil. When the knock sounded, Huang Ling immediately opened the door.

Outside the door was really a young man dressed in uniforms. Neither she nor her brother had seen him before. He appeared rather bright and carried a warm smile. He asked courteously, "Are you Miss Huang Ling?"

"Yes. Are you Police Officer Zhang?" Huang Ling also asked.

"Yes. This is your subsidy. Please sign for it." Police Officer Zhang handed to her a thick leather envelope.

"Thank you so much. Please come in for a rest." Huang Ling received the envelope quite happily and then made way to let the person in.

"No need. I'm here on official business. Bye, Miss Huang Ling." Police Officer Zhang said smilingly. After that, he turned around and left squarely.

As soon as Police Officer Zhang walked farther, Huang Li got excited. He went up and asked immediately, "Sister, let's check how much it is now."

"Ok. Let's check together." Huang Ling took out the leather envelope and put it on the table.

After unpacking the envelope, there appeared several thick stacks of money. All were brand-new 100 RMB notes.

"Why is there so much money?" Huang Ling was a little suspicious.

"Is it much? This is exchanged with the cost of our parents' life." Huang Li was originally very excited, but as soon as he remembered his parents and himself, he said bitterly.

"Yeah. We can finally send you to the hospital to cure your legs. This time, they can definitely get cured." Huang Ling said decisively.

How come the genuine subsidy reached as high as more than 100,000 RMB? It was actually only tens of thousands of RMB. The extra 100,000 RMB was matter-of-factly the reward for Boss Zhao and his men catching the criminal wanted by the law. They sent the money to the sister and brother in the name of subsidy.

People did crazy things for money like what birds would do for food. In this society, money was truly the best thing, but some fools would still like to spend more than 100,000 RMB on a meal.

Chapter 287: One Serving of A Delicacy

In a brand-new office, Lee Yanyi was sitting at the desk and writing a report seriously. At that time, a knock of "Dong Dong" came.

"Come in, please," Lee Yanyi didn't turn his head but just said straightforwardly.

"Professor, here is a document for you." Taking a document in the hand, Yan Jia walked into the office lightly.

"What document is it to have you send to me at this time of day?" Lee Yanyi raise the head.

"Have a look." Not saying much, Yan Jia directly handed the document to him.

"Oh?" Lee Yanyi took a look at Yan Jia, who seldom keep people guessing like right now. Then he got a little curious.

"Hua La", he received the document, opened it and checked it straightway.

The title of the document was Recommendations of the Most Anticipated Tiny Restaurant. Under the title, the agreed result was Yuan Zhou's restaurant, namely the Master Chef restaurant.

"It turns out to be this matter." Lee Yanyi took a glance at it and then took out his personal seal and stamped it on the document.

"Professor, you are not going to stop it?" Yan Jia was a little surprised.

"Why should I stop this matter?" There wasn't any expression of puzzlement on the solemn and skinny face of Lee Yanyi.

"You don't wish for that place to have too many people, do you?" Yan Jia asked directly.

"It will happen sooner or later. It's just a little early," Lee Yanyi said calmly.

"Ok. I'll leave you to your work." Yan Jia paused a while. When he saw Lee Yanyi not intend to say anything, he uttered.

"Humm, take it." Lee Yanyi pointed to the document that he had just approved.

"Alright." Yan Jia nodded the head seriously and went out of the office.

"Peng". Looking at the door shut, Yan Jia shrugged and indicated that he still couldn't understand Lee Yanyi's mind.

However, that wouldn't affect Yan Jia's working efficiency.

Soon, the document was sent out to the proposer.

After that, the identity of Yuan Zhou's restaurant was finally confirmed. The title of Most Anticipated Tiny Restaurant anyhow corresponded to the taste of Yuan Zhou's restaurant temporarily. Of course, Yuan Zhou likewise identified with this title after he constantly looked at the result displayed on the phone.

What he needed to do now was to wait for the gourmet map to be updated. Luckily, there was only several days left.

The whole morning passed very soon and then it came to the business time at noon. When Zhou Jia came to work, Yuan Zhou happened to be putting away his phone.

It was a quite rare matter.

"Hi, boss." With a manner of anxiety, Zhou Jia greeted courteously.

"Humm." Yuan Zhou nodded the head.

"Boss, I heard that somebody wants to purchase the stores nearby over here," Zhou Jia suddenly said that.

"Pardon?" Yuan Zhou was a little puzzled.

"I heard that somebody wants to come here and purchase the

stores nearby including yours and then make it into a very large restaurant. Do you know that?" Zhou Jia asked carefully.

"No, I don't," Yuan Zhou said squarely.

"Aren't you worried?" Zhou Jia appeared to be more anxious.

"The big boss is said to be very powerful. In that case, the government might approve his proposal." Zhou Jia majored in Economic Management and was very clear that there wasn't comparability between a small restaurant and a large one.

"Really?" Yuan Zhou didn't really know about that.

"In other words, the tax that you pay will never surpass that paid by the large restaurant. So..." Zhou Jia said euphemistically.

"If so, we don't need to worry about that now." Speaking of the tax, Yuan Zhou didn't worry anymore.

"Why?" Zhou Jia was a little puzzled.

"You'll know why when you stay longer," Yuan Zhou said mysteriously.

"Oh." Seeing Yuan Zhou behave so affirmative, Zhou Jia had only to nod the head. Meanwhile, the anxiety in her heart diminished.

Zhou Jia hadn't stayed here for long and had barely worked for one month in total, if including Yuan Zhou's rest time. It was normal that she didn't know that, but later she would understand it.

As for the tax, Yuan Zhou had a say in that. The rising amount of tax month by month could add no more heartache to Yuan Zhou. Regarding the amount of tax of a large restaurant, Yuan Zhou didn't actually think it would surpass what was paid by him, let alone that it was still increasing now.

Therefore, Yuan Zhou didn't worry about that at all.

"Go tidy up the restaurant." Yuan Zhou pointed to the interior of the restaurant and said.

"Alright." Zhou Jia looked at Yuan Zhou again and found he truly wasn't worried at all. Then, she went to work securely.

"Boss Yuan, we are coming." The loud voice of Wu Zhou arrive ahead of him.

"I'm the first," Wu Hai stroked his small mustaches and said coldly at the side.

"Didn't you eat the dishes yesterday? Why are you still so bad-tempered?" Wu Zhou was startled by the indifferent expression on Wu Hai's face.

"It's none of your business." Wu Hai appeared to be quite unhappy.

"Were you beaten by your sister?" Wu Zhou was always unafraid to be beaten. Even Zhao Yingjun couldn't stop him from saying that. Wang Nan, who stood at the side and appeared to be anxious, likewise had only to worry in vain.

"You know too much." Wu Hai looked at Wu Zhou with cold eyes, which resembled Wu Lin's murderous look.

"Err... well, I will stop." Wu Zhou had an intuition of animals, the so-called the seventh sense of man, thus shut up immediately.

"Let's eat. Didn't you say you would treat? Let's go." At that time, Zhao Yingjun went up and said in time.

"Yeah, right. Wang Nan, the Egg Fried Rice served here tastes great. Let's order this dish." Wu Zhou said affirmatively.

"Ok. Egg Fried Rice, please. Thank you," Wang Nan said with a slight embarrassment.

"Never mind. You'll know the taste after you eat it. It well deserves the price." Zhao Yingjun also tilted his head and said to him.

"Humm." Wang Nan nodded the head.

Wu Hai still kept silent with his long face and Wang Nan had nothing in common to talk with Wu Zhou and Zhao Yingjun. The curved long table was then lost in silence.

Until Zhou Jia came to take orders, "What do you want to eat today, everybody?"

"Three servings of Egg Fried Rice." Wu Zhou said quickly and meanwhile stopped Zhao Yingjun who wanted to say something.

"Alright, one moment, please. What about you?" Zhou Jia asked Wu Hai.

"Dongpo Pig Knuckle, Translucent Beef Slices, Steamed Tofu with Minced Pork and Silk Twined Rabbit." Wu Hai ordered the dishes one by one.

"Ok. Please wait a moment, please." Zhou Jia turned around and prepared to walk away.

"That prawn is still alive?" With his sharp eyes, Wu Hai caught sight of the prawn that had been kept among the sergestes.

"Yes, it's alive and kicking." Zhou Jia answered earnestly.

"One prawn could live so well." Looking at the prawns that had just leaped up and the surrounding pink sergestes, Wu Hai said

with a manner of dislike.

Zhou Jia nodded the head smilingly and then turned around to tell Yuan Zhou the dishes.

As a person who felt uncomfortable if he had nothing to do, Wu Zhou began to talk.

"Look at the people outside. Wasn't I right by saying to come earlier?" Wu Zhou pointed at the crowd lining up outside and said proudly.

"Humm. Why can't we order the take-out?" Having always lowered his head since entering the restaurant, Wang Nan was a little puzzled.

"You'll know why after you come twice more. The dishes here are all delicious, but much too expensive. Apart from that, the boss has lots of rules." Although Zhao Yingjun talked in a manner of dislike, his tone was full of satisfaction.

"Humm." With a nod, Wang Nan indicated that he was clear now. He was still slightly suspicious, but didn't ask anymore.

"Egg Fried Rice for you three." While they were talking, Zhou Jia carried the dishes to them.

"Hurry up to eat it. It's finally served." Wu Zhou picked up the spoon immediately and began to eat excitedly.

Beside him, Zhao Yingjun also started to eat straightforwardly as if he could wait no more for even a single minute. Wang Nan paused a little while and followed suit.

As soon as he swallowed up the mouthful of the rice, Wang Nan got stunned. Then he continued to eat it one spoonful after another quickly.

Although he ate after the other two persons, he finished the first. Then he took the spoon and stared blankly at the empty plate. Just in a little while, he surprisingly wept.

"Hey, you brat. Even if it's delicious, you don't need to cry." When Wu Hai saw that, he frowned and looked at Wang Nan, with an obscure expression.

"Are you talking to me?" Wang Nan wiped his face dry and asked.

"You can even cry because of a serving of Egg Fried Rice. Who else can it be?" Wu Hai answered with a manner of contempt.

Having barely finished the meal and got no time to savor the aftertaste, Wu Zhou and Zhao Yingjun both looked at Wang Nan with suspicion.

Yuan Zhou's dishes were top-notch delicacies recognized by all. But it might only exist in the movie and TV drama that one could cry because he had eaten the delicious foods. Therefore, Wu Hai

was quite curious.

"Sorry. It's the first time I came to this city and this restaurant. I wasn't really accustomed to the surroundings." Wang Nan set down the spoon and explained.

"Main point, please. This explanation has nothing to do with you crying." Wu Hai was rather impatient. He didn't want to hear only the complaints.

"I wasn't crying for the wonderful taste... It's just that I feel so good to be able to eat tasty stuff in a new and strange city. The food enriches my stomach as if it enriches my whole body. It's really an excellent feeling. Thank you so much."

The passage wasn't uttered fluently. Apparently, Wang Nan was a little emotional, but he rarely smiled. In the end, he didn't know how to describe it anymore, hence just thanked them.

"A weird person." Looking at the smiling face in the tears of Wang Nan, Wu Hai said inexplicably.

Most of the time, it was neither the GDP nor the cultural atmosphere that made people identify with the city.

It might be a small stall at the wayside where he could eat a not-so-expensive beef noodles.

It also might be a Huangjiao Tree at the road side, or else, a dim

street lamp in an alley...

Chapter 288: Level Up

"That's fine." Hearing the introduction as such, Wu Zhou let out a sigh of relief at once.

"Humm. Thank you, Brother Wu," Wang Nan said earnestly.

"Don't mention it to him. You can treat him to a meal when you get your first salary." Zhao Yingjun understood Wang Nan to some extent as he had also been transferred to Jinling City to work.

"Yeah, he's right. That would be the best reward for me." Wu Zhou was rather expectant.

"Alright." Wang Nan answered squarely.

"That's good. No more problems now." Zhao Yingjun patted on the shoulders of Wang Nan.

"Let's leave now." Wu Zhou dragged the other two persons away to offer their seats to others.

"A weird person." Wu Hai muttered to himself again.

"You don't understand?" Yuan Zhou suddenly asked.

"Yes, I understand. I just don't agree." Wu Hai shook his head.

"Ok." Yuan Zhou nodded the head and then went back again to cook.

Wu Hai was slightly dumbfounded while waiting. He thought of the previous call made from Zheng Jiawei.

"Hai, how are you getting on these two days?" The gentle voice of Zheng Jiawei passed from the other end of the phone.

He could even vaguely hear his sister complaining discontentedly, "Why do you talk to him so gently? He went back to enjoy life but left you here."

"Not bad. What's the matter?" Taking the phone in the hand, Wu Hai enjoyed the good taste of the breakfast in retrospect lazily.

"The paintings have all been sold out, including the primary painting in the main exhibition and the second best painting." Zheng Jiawei kept silent for a while and then said tentatively.

"Are they all sold out?" Wu Hai sat up straight and revealed a serious expression.

"Yes. That painting of All Sentient Beings Passing sold for 1.05 million RMB higher than the other painting of Elegant Beauty." This time, Zheng Jiawei explained to him in details.

"Who bought it?" With a frown, Yuan Zhou felt a little unhappy, not knowing why.

"The one whom we are talking about several days ago. You have also seen him." At the other end of the phone, Zheng Jiawei described the details of the buyer.

"Ok, I got it." As soon as Wu Hai heard that, he hung off the phone directly.

"Did he hang up the phone?" Wu Lin took a look at Zheng Jiawei who appeared helpless.

"Humm. He doesn't seem to be happy." While speaking, Zheng Jiawei even started to worry about Wu Hai.

"Forget it. It's him who wants to sell it. That's no business of yours." Wu Lin went to sit beside Zheng Jiawei and tried to comfort him while holding his hands.

"Actually, I can tell that Hai doesn't want to sell it. Not knowing why, however, he still decided to sell it in the end." Zheng Jiawei sighed.

"He's just capricious." Wu Lin didn't really agreed with him. She was clear that if Wu Hai didn't want to sell, he would have thought of whatever ways to stop it. Right now, she wanted to comfort her boyfriend more.

"Lin Lin, let's go for a meal." Having been comforted by Wu Lin, Zheng Jiawei likewise got better. He dragged Wu Lin's slender hand and stood up, saying that.

"Humm." Wu Lin stood up obediently and let Zheng Jiawei guide her freely.

When the lovers were behaving sweetly, Wu Hai was nevertheless fairly dissatisfied at the other side.

After hanging off the phone, Wu Hai began to stare blankly and remembered his paintings.

When the art exhibition was in the pipeline, Wu Hai didn't have a clear theme at the beginning. Not until he stayed for long in Yuan Zhou's restaurant did he create this theme painting.

It was quite interesting. By the way, Wu Hai studied oil painting.

In the painting, there was only a small store with no shop sign which was surrounded by many spots at first glance. If anybody checked carefully, however, he would find the spots were actually all people. Only by a more careful observation could he discover these seemingly shadowy figures actually had their own moods. They were just like real persons of complete emotions.

Inside of the small restaurant, Yuan Zhou was clearly seen. He was busying working in the kitchen and appeared to be an earnest and great master of superb culinary skills. At the curved long table

was Mu Xiaoyun who had twin tails. A kind of happiness arose spontaneously upon seeing her.

Except Wu Hai, all the regular customers were there among other customers eating inside. Anybody who was familiar with them could recognize them very easily, even if Wu Hai didn't draw their detailed expressions out.

At the entrance, there were the conspicuous wood board on which No Trash were written, the boxer that was walking into the restaurant with wounds all over his body, the grey-haired old granny, the weird man who walked for a redundant lap around Yuan Zhou's restaurant, the customers that lined up waiting outside, and the four tall, short, fat and thin persons who maintained order.

Of course, there was also a pretty woman in the painting. She only had a side face, but nevertheless looked fairly gentle and elegant. She was right standing at the side quietly. This meaningful scene and the dark night simply made the best of each other.

These multiple elements formed this oil painting, which looked extraordinarily harmonious. Every viewer would take himself to be one of the figures subconsciously as it would give people a feeling of warmth, happiness or delight.

"Two months' work is sold like that. Tsk." Wu Hai seemed to be complaining with a hint of unwillingness.

As for the other one, Wu Hai felt more dissatisfied when thinking of that.

In the other painting was a view of a woman's back. Only by looking at the painting could one clearly tell it was a very pretty woman.

This woman was the purpose that made Zheng Jiawei specially call and tell Wu Hai about the sales.

"Forget it. Let me eat first." After the short moment of retrospect, it happened to be the business time at noon at Yuan Zhou's restaurant. Then, Wu Hai stood up and entered Yuan Zhou's restaurant.

Due to all these happenings, Wu Hai didn't look good anymore, but he himself didn't know it.

"What's wrong with you? Did you eat the dyestuff?" Looking at Wu Hai's expression, Yuan Zhou asked naturally.

"Eat the dyestuff?" Wu Hai didn't get his meaning.

"You cooked colorful dishes again by yourself." Yuan Zhou said that with an inquiring tone, but the utterance was nevertheless quite firm.

"That's art," Wu Hai stroked his small mustaches and declared solemnly.

"Performing arts?" Yuan Zhou was rather fashionable.

"Painter, the art of a painter. You don't have any artistic sense," Wu Hai felt quite speechless.

"I see. But I still like cooking more," Yuan Zhou said lightly.

As they were chatting, Wu Hai looked better. Yuan Zhou didn't answer Wu Hai every time as he was really very busy during the business hour at noon. And Wu Hai wasn't a person who liked talking all the time, either.

"Here are your dishes." Only when Zhou Jia carried the dishes to him was their conversation terminated.

Compared with chatting, Wu Hai liked savoring the delicacies alone more, which was the best reward of his paintings.

Regarding every regular customer, Yuan Zhou basically remembered their characteristics, more importantly, their unique taste. Nevertheless, he never spoke of that to others.

In the following days, Yuan Zhou's restaurant ran normally every day. Originally, Yuan Zhou was a little upset at the end of every month. He was naturally unhappy to go to the tax bureau and pay the tax even if the system would offer him the red packet to make up for a part of his loss. However, it was an exception today as the latest gourmet map was going to be released.

The regulated releasing time was quite accurate. As soon as the breakfast time ended, Yuan Zhou got seated in his chair and waited silently.

Of course, Yuan Zhou also made great efforts secretly in order to make sure his mission could succeed, for example, the non-personal publicity and enquiring about how to become the landmark restaurant of delicious foods.

That wasn't really publicity. Yuan Zhou also asked Meng Meng about that through the microblog happily. Therefore, his intention had basically been known by all.

Luckily, Yuan Zhou's efforts were rewarded in the end.

The system displayed, "Congratulations, host. The mission is completed."

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Chapter 289: Strange Reward

This time, the reminder of the system seemed to be accompanied by a cheerful background music that played in a continuous loop in Yuan Zhou's mind.

"It seems my efforts are rather productive." Yuan Zhou opened the website delightedly to check his landmark restaurant.

He tapped the phone lightly and directly went to the official website. As expected, Yuan Zhou's restaurant was high on the list.

"There's surprisingly a comment." Yuan Zhou got a little surprised after he checked carefully.

His restaurant had never been in this landmark position before. Previously, it was merely huddled together closely with other restaurants below. But now, it was not only at a conspicuous position in the front, but also had its own comment.

[The latest Most Anticipated Tiny Restaurant. The chef owns the craftsmanship of top-notch masters and the price likewise conforms to his identity of a master. We don't suggest people eat it frequently as their wallet tends to get slimmer.]

"Tsk-tsk. Even the official comment learns to act cute nowadays." Looking at the comment that didn't suggest frequent eating, Yuan Zhou was rather speechless.

Yuan Zhou looked back at his own price list and then said quite confidently, "Compared with my craftsmanship, the price is really not high."

Luckily, no one heard him, otherwise Wu Zhou would probably beat him to death. After all, he could only manage to come once per week with his girlfriend, unlike the rich guy Wu Hai who took this place as his canteen.

"Let me calm down first. Now I can check the reward." Yuan Zhou set down the phone and looked at the empty restaurant. He sighed with emotion.

"Thank you." Yuan Zhou suddenly uttered and tapped open the mission and then started to check it.

[Main Mission] to become a regional gourmet representative (completed)

(Mission tips: Being a minor celebrity can no longer satisfy your wild ambition. You must become a regional representative within one calendar month. Young man, I have faith in you.)

[Mission reward] to get promoted by one level up; one chance to draw lottery; an upgrade reward. (available to be received)

(Reward tips: for such a great reward, young man, go and endeavor to get it.)

The system displayed, "You have leveled up. The tables and chairs still can't be unlocked temporarily."

"What's the reason?" Yuan Zhou had fully hoped that more tables and chairs could be unlocked again.

The system displayed, "Host, please receive the reward."

"I want to check the level first." Yuan Zhou liked to eat the most delicious thing in the very end.

Although the happiness obtained that way was said to be the same, Yuan Zhou still felt it most delicious that way.

He tapped open the interface and found the information basically not changed at all except the level.

Target: the system will help you to get a thorough knowledge of both western and traditional Chinese foods so you could become the top Master Chef in the world.

Host: Yuan Zhou (ordinary Chinese Han nationality human)

Gender: Male

Age: 24

Physical quality: C (overall evaluations of neutral responding speed, strength, coordination and sensibility, etc.)

Culinary talent: Unknown

Skill: None

Tool: None

5 Dimension Cooking evaluation: Novice

Level: 4

Title: Master of Cooked Wheaten Food

(As a Master of Cooked Wheaten Food, how could you be so busy in the kitchen? You need some time of your own to improve your culinary skills. Therefore, business hours must be less than 6 hours every day.)

"I have truly got promoted up to level 4 now. Finally, I'm not a novice now." Yuan Zhou let out a sigh of relief and then said contentedly.

Now it was the proper time to unpack the most delicious cake.

"By the way, what's the matched snack this time?" Yuan Zhou

recalled the Eight Unique Qinhuai Snacks rewarded last time.

The taste was incomparably delicious for each of them and was different from each other. Besides, they were all quite exquisite.

The system displayed, "The matched snack has been released. Please check."

"That's great." There wasn't a reward of any snack on one occasion, therefore Yuan Zhou asked specially.

He was actually quite interested in the reward of leveling up as it seemed to be abundant. He was awfully interested in that.

After he tapped open a package-like stuff, the rewards inside appeared in Yuan Zhou's sight straightforwardly.

"Three Invitation Cards, one serving of matched snack, one menu. The menu is actually provided." There appeared three cards and an elegant menu painted with lotus flowers in Yuan Zhou's hand.

He took the so-called invitation cards and looked at it again and again, but he didn't find anything special. Except for the light patterns of lotus flowers, there was nothing else.

"Is this the menu? How many will you provide, system?" Yuan Zhou asked curiously.

The system displayed, "One for each table."

"So many." Taking the exquisite menu in his hand, Yuan Zhou was a little speechless.

The handwriting on the menu was nice and the format was arranged neatly and reasonably, making people clear at a glance. Besides, the characters seemed to be written with the writing brush and appeared to be accompanied by the smell of the ink. Some clear lotus flower petals were inlaid on the surface and the texture of the paper was quite soft and thin.

It felt as if being a superior silk cloth. Even in the summer, it gave people an ice-cold feeling. He had thought there might be fragrance, but when he smelled it carefully, he found there was not any smell at all, not even the intrinsic taste of the paper itself.

"The paper is really nice. It doesn't have even the slightest scent." Yuan Zhou was rather satisfied with it.

Originally, there wasn't any redundant flavor but the bland scent in his restaurant. That way, it wouldn't affect people savoring the nice taste. Because of the system, customers could only smell the taste of the dishes in front of them.

"The menu is great, even if it's merely a decoration." Yuan Zhou had long been grumbling about the fact that there was not a menu.

After all, a menu was considered to be the outer manifestation of his restaurant. That was just the reason why Yuan Zhou hired a painter to draw lotus flowers on the wall. Luckily, the painting works didn't let Yuan Zhou down. Her craftsmanship was fairly good and the lotus flowers and green leaves were still dazzling beautiful on the wall.

Having got the menu, Yuan Zhou finally became relieved. Since there had been the great manifestation, he was only short of the genuine manifestation, the shop sign, then.

That needed to be accomplished step by step. Then it went to the moment to draw lottery. Yuan Zhou said expertly, "System, time for lottery."

After that, the system directly turned on the lucky-draw system without saying anything. However, it was totally different from the former times.

"What's this? Can I go to the country for a tour if I draw that country?" Yuan Zhou looked at the names of the virtual countries in sight speechlessly.

The system displayed, "Host, you can draw the lottery three times. Provided that you get the lucky-draw of any particular country, you can have a local cuisine of that country."

"What standard do you distinguish the sizes by?" Yuan Zhou kept silence for a while and then asked.

The system displayed, "According to the size of the territory and the overall national strength."

"It feels like I'm having a lesson of geography. Headache." The geography was what Yuan Zhou afraid of most.

After all, you can't expect one that couldn't even tell between left and right except for cooking to tell the directions among north, south, east and west.

During his university years, there was once a class party. As it was the last year before they graduated, he also took part in it. However, he didn't even find the place after quite a while. It was his class monitor who came out to pick him up at last.

If not, there was no way out. They didn't see him even at the designated place in the university.

The dialogues of the two persons were as follows.

Class Monitor, "Where are you, Pi?"

Yuan Zhou, "I'm on a nameless trail. It's supposed to be not far from the concert hall."

But the concert hall of Yuan Zhou's university was built on a very high place and it could be seen at any site in the university.

Therefore, the class monitor was lost in silence for a while and then changed a way to ask.

"Pi, we'll wait for you in the north of the south region." The monitor felt it would work in this way.

Yet, he didn't expect Yuan Zhou to answer him so squarely, "Which direction is the north?"

Then, the monitor became dumbfounded, for a long while, before he reacted and straightforwardly told him he would go to pick him up. Ever since then, no one had dared to ask him for directions anymore. Luckily, it didn't take long before they graduated and drifted apart.

Let's come back to our story. Yuan Zhou was right now quite vexed while he was looking at the oversize rotary table with different sizes...

Chapter 290: Strange Invitation Card

"Malta. What nice cuisines are there in this country? I have never heard about that before." Looking carefully at the rotary table, Yuan Zhou contemplated constantly.

Then, he turned his sight to other large countries.

The first one he saw was the USA, the world police, seated in the Pacific Ocean.

"Is it the hamburger and steak for this country?" Yuan Zhou considered earnestly for a while.

"Well, it's surprisingly the circle of dark cuisines? Please, don't let me get this country." He looked at the country Britain which had a large territory and sighed with emotion.

If he got this country in the lucky-draw, would he have to cook the dark chocolate grilled eggplant? The kind that didn't require peeling the skin. It was so dreadful to think of the sticky chocolate and grilled unpeeled eggplant.

"Hiss. Feels terrible." Yuan Zhou shook the head and tried to get rid of the disgusting appearance of the black cuisine.

For quite a while, Yuan Zhou didn't rotate the rotary table. Instead, he said, "It seems that I need some good luck."

Then he directly asked the system to provide him with a super big radish and afterwards sculpted a fruit basket in which many pineapples, pomelos, persimmons, oranges and grapes were placed.

Every fruit meant something.

"I called all the five varieties of good luck together this way." Taking the diversified fruits in his hand, Yuan Zhou was very satisfied.

Yeah. The fruits in the basket all had their distinct meanings, therefore Yuan Zhou sculpted these fruits of luck first. As it was closely related to his reward, he treated this matter with much caution.

"System, let's start now." Yuan Zhou took a deep breath and then said with an incomparably contented manner while looking at the fruit basket on the azure stone countertop.

The system displayed, "Host, you can move it by yourself."

"Alright." After a nod, Yuan Zhou started the lucky-draw.

It was just the right moment to show his luck.

Luckily, it didn't really take much strength nor much time to roll it for one circle. After about one minute, he got the first result.

‘Denmark.’ The indicator stayed at the position of Denmark and then remained still there.

"Terrific. Good shot for a start." Yuan Zhou looked at the dish provided and felt quite satisfied.

He switched it on again and it just went fairly smoothly for the second time. It wasn't a strange place, but Sweden that neighbored Denmark across of the sea. Likewise, the dish provided motivated Yuan Zhou to try to cook immediately.

"For the last time. I can definitely make it." Yuan Zhou said confidently.

The rolling of the rotary table was supposed to be silent, but Yuan Zhou behaved as if he had heard a rolling sound of "Hua Hua". In the end, the indicator stayed at the position of France.

"It's surprisingly the country France that enjoys the reputation of Cuisines of Arts." Yuan Zhou liked the plate presentation of French dishes very much as it was truly beautiful.

He immediately checked the dish provided from the lucky-draw this time. Although it wasn't a renowned dish, it was nevertheless pretty nice. Then Yuan Zhou said contentedly, "This dish is also very good."

"Hoo. Success." Looking at the dishes rewarded to him, Yuan

Zhou appeared quite happy.

"It's truly a good harvest. It seems that the higher level I am, the more rewards I can get." Looking at the specific level and thinking of the 50% revenue-sharing mode, he became happier.

After Yuan Zhou received the reward, it was then the time to classify them. Putting other things aside, Yuan Zhou only couldn't make head or tail of the invitation card.

"System, what it is? You don't even give me a note about it." Yuan Zhou checked it again and again, but there was not even a single word on it.

[Invitation Card] With this card, the cardholder can invite anybody he knows, one person at a time. It can't be used on one person repeatedly.

(Instructions for use: The scope of the invitation is only confined to living persons. Please use it three days beforehand to invite your guests. Three days later, the person invited could then go to the restaurant for dining.)

"It's definitely simple and crude." Yuan Zhou looked at the function and felt a little surprised.

Having paid no attention to others, the system straightforwardly gave the answer.

Yuan Zhou carefully read the mission instructions and then let out a sigh.

"I originally thought I would have opportunity to invite Mum and Dad to taste my dishes. It turns out that I thought too much. However, your son has become a Master Chef now." Reading the instructions that only living persons could be invited, he couldn't help sighing.

With his current culinary skills, Yuan Zhou could indeed be regarded as a master chef.

Taking the invitation card, Yuan Zhou really couldn't work out how to use it in a short moment. Therefore, he put the card away carefully and looked toward the matched snack.

Once the matched snack was unveiled, Yuan Zhou saw a single dish inside, alone. The name was Drunkard's Spiced Peanut.

"The system is so mean. There's only one dish." Yuan Zhou grumbled silently. He totally forgot that he had been happy just now that there were more extra rewards this time.

"Anyway, it was a timely rain." When Yuan Zhou thought of the customers of the pub that complained everyday, he sighed with emotion.

Do not ever belittle the grudge of a drunkard, let alone a crowd of drunkards.

During the business time of the pub at night, Yuan Zhou didn't take out the new dishes at once. Now that he had a higher requirement on his craftsmanship, how could he sell them like that without perfect practice?

Therefore, the customers still had no dishes to eat with wine.

"Boss Yuan, you are a bad guy. How come there's still no dishes going with wine? Look, I bring my good brothers here today." Chen Wei pointed at a man who was still dressed in neat suit at night in the summer and said.

"I will provide a dish that goes with wine in a few days." Yuan Zhou stood in the kitchen and said earnestly.

"Great. It's such a good news to me." Wu Hai smiled, with a happy manner on his face.

"Also to me. I don't need to bring any dishes with me anymore." Fang Heng patted on the porcelain lunch box.

"I can't wait to drink my liquor. Let's go, Shen Xi." Having got the satisfactory answer, Chen Wei started to urge the man who was walking unhurriedly after him.

"Where's Dong Dong?" Fang Heng took a look at the stranger and asked.

"He has business to do, hence doesn't come. Speaking of which, I haven't seen Lian Fang for a long time." Looking at the crowd, Chen Wei suddenly remembered another regular customer, a beautiful woman.

"Yeah. It has indeed been a long time. Let me ask Changxi next time." Fang Heng shrugged. They had got together to drink the wine for several times and were considered to be friends.

"She didn't come in daytime, either." Yuan Zhou suddenly uttered.

"Gee? Not in daytime, either?" Hearing that, Chen Wei got a little surprised.

Lian Fang was also a regular customer of Yuan Zhou's restaurant like them. Sometimes, she would come to drink some liquor at night, but she came for meal in daytime from time to time.

"Humm." Yuan Zhou nodded the head.

"She might be busy. Let's go for the liquor now." Wu Hai paused for a while and said with a frown.

"You're right. Let's go for the liquor now. This is my brother Shen Xi. He doesn't drink but just comes to smell the bouquet." Speaking of the purpose of his brother coming here, Chen Wei started to grin.

"I'm not yet sure. There's 20% possibility to cause upper teeth covering over the lower teeth and your chin sinking if you often smile that way. It will result in many difficulties of taking food and speech. Besides, it also greatly affects your appearance although you are not good-looking at all. Yet, you can't affect our mood. So I suggest you not show your teeth so frequently." Chen Wei wasn't complacent for long before he fainted from Shen Xi's utterance.

"That's way too exaggerated. I'm actually smiling." Chen Wei declared seriously.

"Not exaggerated at all. It's good for you." Shen Xi was fairly serious. With the neat suit on him, he appeared truly quite professional.

"This way, please." Shen Min went up to open the sergestes scenery wall and then said while there was a break.

After that, the several people entered the pub one after another. Everybody was happy since they can all drink the liquor except Wu Hai, who appeared to be down right now.

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Chapter 291: Invitation

The several men were chatting while drinking. As a matter of fact, the biggest difference between men and women could be seen at that moment. Women either talked about others' affairs or about themselves.

For men, besides those that were familiar with each other and could joke among themselves, they might get along with others due to benefits. Having busied themselves all day long without a break, they didn't have the same mood while savoring the nice wine in Yuan Zhou's restaurant.

Instead, they were more curious about what the dish that went with the wine might be.

As for Shen Xi, namely Chen Wei's friend, who said that he wouldn't drink, he truly didn't drink any of the liquor. It might be because the alcoholic content of the liquor was so low that he didn't have any desire to drink it.

At midnight, Yuan Zhou stood at the window and saw Shen Min take the last bus and leave, as usual. Only after that did he do his own things. That had become a habit of Yuan Zhou every night.

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Early next morning, Yuan Zhou got up and went out to jog. Of course, the first thing that he did was to jog around his restaurant.

"Nothing special happened. So weird. He didn't come, did he?" Yuan Zhou was naturally thinking about that arrogant thief.

"System, did anybody come here last night?" Having thought for a while, Yuan Zhou straightforwardly asked the system.

The system displayed, "He has been here."

Following the simple and clear words was a video. While jogging, Yuan Zhou played and watched it.

However, Yuan Zhou misjudged the situation, "What the f*ck! This guy is sooooo ridiculous."

Yuan Zhou couldn't help bursting into laughter on the street. That was really funny.

The system marked the time of the happening considerately in the video. It was at about 2:40 am that the arrogant thief came. Dressed in black sportswear, he appeared rather capable and experienced.

He might have observed Broth before, hence took out the dog's favorite ham sausage from the pocket and prepared to feed it.

Upright as Broth was, however, it wasn't cheated by the thief. Instead, it lay prone on the ground silently and stared at the

person alertly.

"Hey, eat some food. You must be hungry at night." The arrogant man peeled the package of the ham sausage and then threw it over to the dog.

He acted quite professionally and appeared to have abducted and traded many dogs. However, he encountered a very smart dog, Broth, this time.

Broth basically didn't eat the food offered by men. Even if girls tried to feed it, it only accepted the foods from the seemingly pretty girls. It was absolutely a dog pursuing beauty.

Therefore, Broth didn't even glance at the ham sausage fed by the arrogant man, but just kept alert, seeing if the man would do something evil.

The arrogant man nevertheless still had methods to deal with such a situation.

He directly took out a miniature sprayer and spouted some liquid on Broth's face. It shouldn't be a virulent poison because Broth woke up just in a little while.

After Broth fell on the ground, the arrogant man began to carry out his plan. He wiped his hands with something and then began to climb the wall from the neighboring pub.

It seemed that he prepared to enter the restaurant from the pub.

Then, Yuan Zhou saw the funniest way of climbing the wall that he had ever seen.

At the beginning, the arrogant man leaped up steadily and easily reached the the top of the wall. But suddenly his expression changed. Right after that, he slipped down from the wall with a sound of "Zi Liu".

Yeah, that's right. He slipped down as if somebody had suddenly poured oil onto the top of the wall.

The arrogant man looked at his hands and then at the top of the wall.

"Interesting. I don't believe I can't even climb onto a wall." The arrogant man rubbed his hands with something again and moreover bound them with strips of cloth for skid resistance.

That way, even there was truly oil on the wall, it would be absorbed by the coarse cloth and the wall wouldn't be so slippery. As long as he could stay on the wall for a few seconds, he was confident to get inside.

However, things were contrary to what he had expected. The arrogant man slipped down again. This time, he took a fall and the dog, Broth, that fell over at the side also woke up during that time.

"Woo woo woo", Broth barked with anger and instantly rushed to him, trying to bite him.

Luckily, the arrogant man reacted quickly and immediately leaped onto the wall. In less than 1 second, however, he slipped down for the third time.

Then, Broth rushed up to bite him again and the arrogant man likewise wittily leaped onto the top of the wall again. Unfortunately, he continued to slip down as before. In the end, Broth just lay down at the place where the arrogant man slipped down. Once he reached that spot, it began to bite him.

"Haw-haw-haw". Yuan Zhou really couldn't refrain himself from laughing loudly as the scene in sight was way too funny.

The confrontation lasted for almost one hour. At last, the arrogant man escaped from Broth's persistent chase and managed to leave with an S-style steps.

"He's truly a talented person." Yuan Zhou couldn't help sighing with emotion.

With the erratic footwork of the arrogant man, Yuan Zhou believed that no one could catch up with him.

"Morning, Boss Yuan." When Yuan Zhou sighed with emotion, Huang Ling greeted him with a broom in her hand.

"Humm, morning." Immediately, Yuan Zhou tightened his face and revealed an expression of solemnity.

"Boss Yuan, you don't look well. What's wrong with you?" On seeing Yuan Zhou's serious manner, Huang Ling had thought there was something wrong with him.

"I'm good. I intend to invite you to my restaurant for dish tasting." Yuan Zhou held back his desire to laugh and pretended to be serious, hence of course didn't look good. Thanks to his well-trained ability during normal times, he tried his best to make his face not distort.

"Gee? Me?" Huang Ling said unbelievably.

"Yes. You and your brother," Yuan Zhou nodded and said affirmatively.

"Why?" Huang Ling asked with puzzlement.

"I will invite the first person I see after I got up in the morning to do the dish tasting along with their family. It's one of my rules." Yuan Zhou spouted some bullsh*t calmly.

"But I'm not a professional gourment and am unable to give any useful suggestions," Huang Ling said with a perturbed manner.

"My dishes are served for the customers," Yuan Zhou said lightly and then prepared to continue jogging.

"But..." Yuan Zhou interrupted her when Huang Ling still wanted to say something.

"Come over here at 11:40 a.m. tomorrow along with your brother. Don't be late." Yuan Zhou directly brought out the time.

"Well, ok. Sorry to bother you," Huang Ling hesitated for a while and finally agreed.

She felt it might be a help to Boss Yuan. After all, she could feel that Yuan Zhou had helped her without a trace.

"Humm." After a nod, Yuan Zhou ran further.

Having finished the matters one after another, Yuan Zhou likewise felt quite happy.

Due to the good mood, Yuan Zhou would naturally cook delicious dishes. It was the Soup Dumplings this time.

"Hey, grandpa. It's been a long time since I saw you last time." Wu Hai looked at the grandpa and the granny who were in the front of the line in surprise.

"Yeah. I have been absent for a long time." The grandpa brought the granny and both appeared to be spirited.

"Judging from the smell, it's definitely the soup dumpling that will be served today." The grandpa was rather sensitive to food.

"I think so, too." Wu Hai agreed to him with a nod.

"Why isn't the beautiful girl here?" Looking back and forth, the granny suddenly asked.

"She hasn't been here for long." When Wu Hai recalled his painting that had the girl's figure, the happiness on his face diminished a little. Then he said lightly.

"She might be occupied by something." Ling Hong uttered suddenly.

Several regular customers of Yuan Zhou's restaurant huddled together and chatted delightedly. The line became longer and longer too.

At that time, the door was opened after a sound of "Hua La".

It was Saturday. Shen Min went up and said, "Business time starts now. Please come on in, everybody."

"It's finally opened. As soon as we come back, we can eat the soup dumplings. We are really lucky." The grandpa sighed with emotion.

"Indeed. There isn't any delicious dish as such in the city where our son is," the granny echoed, too.

Nevertheless, Wu Hai appeared to be slightly depressed and not happy...

Chapter 292: A New Menu

"Hey, what's wrong with you?" Ling Hong patted on Wu Hai's shoulders and asked loudly.

"I'm good," Wu Hai said indifferently while stroking his small mustaches.

"She isn't here these days, but that doesn't mean she's not coming in future," Ling Hong shrugged and said with a relaxed expression.

"Are you talking about Lady Lu?" suddenly a short man asked.

"What? Do you also know her?" Ling Hong asked with interest.

"Of course I do. She's such a beautiful girl," the short man smiled and said.

"Do you know why she doesn't come?" Ling Hong asked again with an affirmative tone.

"She moved to another place," The short man said with a regretful tone.

"She moved away? When?" Wu Hai was a little suspicious.

"About one week after you left for your exhibition," The short

man thought for a while and then said.

"It has been so long." There were understanding, regret, pity and faint reluctance in Wu Hai's tone.

"How do you know that?" Yuan Zhou likewise asked suddenly.

He also wanted to know why this regular customer no longer came all of a sudden.

"I met her one day on the way and went up and then asked her," the short man said with embarrassment.

"I see." Yuan Zhou nodded his head.

"But I have her new address. Do you want it?" After quite a while, the short man suddenly uttered.

"No need." Wu Hai only answered him after a while of silence.

For a moment, he really wanted to get that address. It might be a good choice to say goodbye to her.

The woman that the several people were talking about was exactly the female figure in that painting work. She was also a regular customer of Yuan Zhou's restaurant, but had moved to another place and no longer came.

Wu Hai didn't even talk to her while Yuan Zhou at least spoke several words with her. Therefore, they didn't really know much about her. It was just that she was beautiful.

"Don't you say a goodbye to her?" Yuan Zhou couldn't really understand him.

He could tell that Wu Hai had been paying close attention to that woman. Although they didn't talk before, his sight didn't cheat.

"No need. I just felt like I lost a source material for my painting," having taken up the cup, Wu Hai drank some water and then said.

"A weird painter." Yuan Zhou came to this conclusion.

"Maybe." Wu Hai was then lost in silence while stroking his small mustaches.

"It's so nice to be young." The grandpa sighed with emotion smilingly.

People come and go. Someone just moved to another place and then no longer came.

The Master Chef Restaurant just stayed there, unmoved, but people seldom stayed where they had been and kept waiting. Wu Hai knew about that very well. However, it was a feeling that couldn't be described as love. He just wanted to look at her silently. As time passed by, it was good to see you well every day.

That was really enough for him.

Therefore, he didn't need to say goodbye nor see her again. As a man with small mustaches and with his name unknown, he might be only a passer-by in the memory of that Lady Lu.

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After the breakfast time ended, Yuan Zhou took out the new menu and placed it together with the invitation card.

"How would I use this invitation card?" Taking the card, Yuan Zhou looked at it again and again.

It was really a tough matter for Yuan Zhou to invite people to eat here. He hadn't even thought of whom to invite.

Right following that, Yuan Zhou thought of another important question, "System, do the people invited with the invitation card need to pay or not?"

The system displayed, "Same as other customers."

"That's good." Yuan Zhou got relieved then. It might not be great if they just came to eat but didn't pay.

As the door of Yuan Zhou's restaurant was widely open, there entered a person from outside. It was not anyone else but Wu Hai.

"What are you reading?" Wu Hai appeared to be quite normal.

"Nothing important." Yuan Zhou put away the invitation card without trace, but left the menu there.

"Huh, is this the menu?" Wu Hai took the menu and said unbelievably.

"Humm. It'll be available at noon." Yuan Zhou nodded the head.

"This menu looks really great. The paper is just perfect," Wu Hai picked up the thin paper and said.

"Of course." Yuan Zhou nodded the head deservedly.

"Did you draw it by yourself?" Looking carefully at the lotus flower pattern on the menu, Wu Hai asked in surprise.

"No." Yuan Zhou directly denied it. Wu Hai must be joking. He didn't know how to paint at all.

"The painting isn't made by machines." Wu Hai had a pair of sharp eyes.

"Besides, the handwriting is also very nice." Wu Hai didn't know much about calligraphy, but it also belonged to the arts, so he could at least tell whether it was good or not.

"Anything from this restaurant is definitely the choicest goods," Yuan Zhou said primly.

"Er..." Wu Hai choked then.

"Why did you come so early?" Yuan Zhou changed the subject.

"Guess," suddenly, Wu Hai said with a prim manner.

"No." Yuan Zhou refused flatly with a speechless manner.

"I want to hang a painting work in your restaurant." Wu Hai didn't ridicule him anymore, but straightway brought out his purpose.

"Why?" Yuan Zhou stared at Wu Hai and revealed a curious manner.

"It's suitable." Wu Hai didn't give the reason directly.

"Sure. Except the place beside the price list and the ceiling, you can hang it wherever you want," Yuan Zhou pointed at the two places and said seriously.

"You are afraid that it will affect people seeing the price list if I hang it there, right?" Wu Hai uttered with an expression of suspicion.

"No, you can't cover the price list." Yuan Zhou didn't answer him directly, either.

"Then can I hang it beside the price list?" Wu Hai pointed at a place next to the price list and asked.

"No, you can't. It will affect the overall taste of my restaurant," Yuan Zhou said firmly.

"Ho Ho. Then I'll hang it over here." Wu Hai was too lazy to argue with him about the value of the painting work.

He pointed to the wall right in front of the sergestes scenery wall and confirmed the position of the painting work.

It was naturally his painting of All Sentient Beings Passing that had been previously sold out. After careful consideration, Wu Hai was reluctant to sell it and hence rushed back overnight yesterday to redeem it. Of course, Zheng Jiawei hadn't got the news at that time.

Wu Hai took out the painting work of which the name written on the blank space had been changed to People Passing by A Small Restaurant. Originally, the name of All Sentient Beings Passing was proposed by Zheng Jiawei. At that time, Wu Hai felt it inappropriate and hence didn't write it on the painting work.

Not until he returned to Yuan Zhou's restaurant did the

inspiration hit him and he write the name down on it. He felt it was more appropriate to use this name.

"It's a wonderful piece of art," Yuan Zhou watched Wu Hai take out the painting work and said sincerely.

"Humm." Wu Hai looked at the painting gently as if he were facing his own child.

"Hang it, please." Yuan Zhou and Wu Hai worked together to take the oil painting and prepared to hang it on the wall.

Once it was hung, the restaurant instantly gained a more spiritual atmosphere. It seemed to bring about the vestiges of daily life and made the place cozier.

"It really matches the surroundings well. Ok, that's it," Wu Hai clapped his hands and said generously.

As for Zheng Jiawei's roar with anger, it was another matter in the future.

"Humm." Yuan Zhou nodded his head.

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During the business time at noon, everybody noticed the new painting work on the wall first. Regular customers found their own

images in the painting while others that came for the first time would see themselves in the painting subconsciously.

The painting seemed to have some magical power that made people feel the greatness of Yuan Zhou's restaurant.

"It turned out to be a master-class painting," even the grandpa that came for lunch couldn't help saying that.

"As far as I know, your paintings were sold out." Ling Hong asked with puzzlement.

"No, it's a rumor," Wu Hai said firmly.

"After it was sold for millions of RMB, you say it was a rumor? Your agent is going to cry." Ling Hong gloated.

"You are wrong. He agrees to me." Wu Hai revealed a well-deserved manner.

While Wu Hai and Ling Hong were arguing, the grandpa caught sight of Yuan Zhou's new menu first and shouted in surprise.

"Wow, what's this? It's surprisingly a menu?"

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Chapter 293: The First Dish That Goes with Wine

"Um, yes, it's the menu and will be updated in the future." Yuan Zhou was very happy to answer such a question.

"It couldn't be better. The paper and the handwriting are both excellent," taking the thin menu, the grandpa said. He liked it so much that he couldn't bear to part with it.

"Thank you for your compliments." Yuan Zhou nodded his head with a faint smile.

"It's not written by you. What did you thank him for?" Wu Hai liked to tease Yuan Zhou very much and started to do so now.

"It's the stuff in my restaurant," Yuan Zhou said as if it were obvious.

"Right. Your words are always so reasonable," Wu Hai gnash his teeth and said.

"Yes, they are," with a nod, Yuan Zhou agreed unreservedly.

Then, Wu Hai could not come up with a retort. Not having been choked for so long, it nevertheless gave him a familiar feeling.

"Do I have a masochistic constitution?" Wu Hai slightly trembled

and removed the idea from his head dumbly.

"Is the lottery for liquor today finished?" Chen Wei suddenly strode into the restaurant.

"Haw-haw. None for you. I got it today." On hearing that, Ling Hong became spirited and then couldn't wait to flaunt.

"It finished so early," Chen Wei said unhappily.

He was delayed by something today. When he came, however, there was nothing left.

"Who else got it?" Chen Wei didn't want to plead for the liquor from Ling Hong.

This guy was said to be generous. It was just that his requirements made people's flesh creep as they were all strange and weird.

"Sorry, it's me." At the side, another person stood out.

"Who are you? How do you know this place?" Chen Wei looked at the man in surprise and revealed a curious manner.

"Oops. Why do you want to know that? Anyway, I won't give the place to you." The man was quite beautiful. Yes, he was beautiful.

His eyebrows were fairly spirited, but under them were, nevertheless, a pair of romantic peach blossom eyes. As soon as he smiled, they appeared watery and shimmering. Matched by his white skin, he was truly beautiful. As chance would have it, he was 180cm high and had a clear and melodious voice. However, one could tell he was a man with just a glance. It was really a strange matter.

"I have never seen you here before. Look, the price is so expensive. What about giving that to me?" Although Chen Wei was an unyielding man, he had a special hobby, that was, to bamboozle strangers.

"I'm the friend of Jiang Changxi." This person said smilingly. On his cheeks were two indistinct dimples.

"Oh, it's surprisingly that 'three lost' woman. What about I paying half and we splitting the liquor by half?" Chen Wei proposed, not intending to give up.

"I have made an appointment with Changxi already." The person squinted at Chen Wei with his beautiful peach blossom eyes and looked very happy.

"Wu Hai, are you going to drink tonight?" Chen Wei turned his attention away immediately.

"Sigh. He's truly as same as what Changxi tells me." This man smiled happily and then he saw Chen Wei start to ask Wu Hai for his place.

"This guy scrounged some liquor from me." Ling Hong, who was good at giving the last hit, indicated that one got to strike when the moment was right.

"Then who's the last one." Chen Wei was still reluctant to give up.

"It's naturally Boss Fang who wants to study the recipe of Boss Yuan's liquor." Ling Hong was very warm-hearted to give something to Fang Heng to do.

"Alright." Chen Wei left hurriedly with the quiet fellow Shen Xi.

It seemed that they went looking for Fang Heng.

"Do you guys think he'll make it?" the good-looking man asked with curiosity.

"I feel that you are similar to Zheng Jiawei." Wu Hai took a careful look at the man and then said.

"Am I? He wasn't as beautiful as me," the man said straightforwardly and affirmatively.

"That's true. It's just that you two give off a similar feeling." Wu Hai nodded his head honestly. Zheng Jiawei was indeed not as good-looking as this man.

Then, the several people started to chat again.

Speaking of which, the reason why Chen Wei behaved so persistently was very simple. From tonight on, Yuan Zhou would start to provide the dish to eat with wine, the Drunkard's Peanut. Though it was merely a simple dish, Chen Wei still didn't want to miss it since he found it difficult to resist the drinking zest and had longed for it for a long time.

When the lunch time ended, those who came for the liquor didn't leave. They specially stayed to confirm this matter.

"Boss Yuan, is there really a dish to eat with wine this evening?" Ling Hong asked first.

"What dish is it?" The beautiful man didn't leave, either. He was told to stay by Jiang Changxi.

"You guys will know the answers in the evening," Yuan Zhou said straightforwardly.

"I don't see any new dish on the menu. Will you add it in the evening?" Wu Hai asked curiously.

"Yes," After a nod, Yuan Zhou said affirmatively.

After all, the system seemed to be a perfectionist. How could he

allow such a conspicuous flaw?

"If you say yes, we'll leave you alone undisturbed." The several customers who stayed all trusted Yuan Zhou's moral integrity and hence left.

"Boss, do you need help in the afternoon?" After a short hesitation, Shen Min asked Yuan Zhou.

She had constantly been thinking how to thank her boss ever since Yuan Zhou helped to call a car and send her back last time. However, the expression of 'Don't approach me unless we are acquainted' on Yuan Zhou's face made her unable to speak that out easily. She could only do some more work in return.

"No need. Just don't be late in the evening." Yuan Zhou shook the head. He didn't really like other people to step into his territory.

As a result, he didn't intend to hire more staff to help even though there were more and more dishes now.

It was also a process of enhancing his craftsmanship to deal with the ingredients. Therefore, Yuan Zhou would like to do these work by himself more. Of course, he declared sternly that it wasn't an obsession compulsive disorder at all, but to increase his craftsmanship.

He spoke so earnestly that he almost believed that himself.

"System, the peanuts have no soil on them, do they?" Yuan Zhou asked before he opened the cabinet.

The indifferent system nevertheless didn't answer him at all. Yuan Zhou had to shrug and open the cabinet directly.

"Although they aren't shelled, at least they don't have any soil." Looking at the clean peanuts in the shell, Yuan Zhou rejoiced.

After all, Yuan Zhou always felt the system truly had vulgar interests, sometimes.

The selection of the peanuts were naturally known by Yuan Zhou. It was easy to distinguish the good from the bad. Those that provided by the system were of course the best.

"Is this Xiaojingsheng Peanuts?" Yuan Zhou picked a three-part peanut up and asked with uncertainty.

The system displayed, "It originates in Xinchang County, also named as Xiaojingsheng. And it's selected from the mature batch of Sep, 1984."

"This batch of peanuts is most delicious and intact. It also has a very good taste."

"That's really awesome. The peanuts harvested that year were said to get the highest prize, right?" Taking a peanut in his hand, Yuan Zhou said dumbly.

"Let me savor the taste of the highly prized peanuts." After thinking for a while, Yuan Zhou pinched the peanut open and put the peanut kernel into his mouth.

"Ba Ji Ba Ji". The peanut kernels emitted a melodious sound. The light red peanut skin was bit open along with the kernel and after that, a strong fragrance of peanuts directly rushed into his nose.

"There's surprisingly no raw flavor." Yuan Zhou picked up the remaining two peanuts kernels and continued eating.

Generally speaking, raw peanuts had a sort of raw taste and the texture wasn't too smooth. Besides, it tasted a little coarse. This breed of peanuts, however, didn't have that at all. The serofluid and the grease in the peanut itself were both quite abundant.

Peanut oil was also a very important edible oil.

"No wonder it's the champion of peanuts. The taste is really good." Yuan Zhou chewed the peanut and felt rather satisfied.

The system displayed, "Eating raw peanuts might result in serious consequences such as diarrhea and putting on weight."

Yuan Zhou, "..."

Chapter 294: Drunkard's Peanut

When Yuan Zhou saw the message from the system, he indicated speechlessly, "I ate only one."

Having just appeared in front of Yuan Zhou, however, the system vanished again, leaving only a line of big characters.

The system displayed, "The Xiaojingsheng peanut is worth 10 RMB each."

"It's a really uniform price." Speechlessly, Yuan Zhou saw that the turnover was directly deducted by 10 RMB.

That reminded him of the tax-paying system of the USA in which the government could deduct the money from one's bank accounts without getting your prior consent if there was any delay. Of course, the government would mail the detailed bill to him in accordance with the regulations, telling you where the money had gone.

"Speaking of which, why do you want so much money?" Suddenly, Yuan Zhou became curious.

He waited a long time and didn't get the answer from the system. Not until then did Yuan Zhou give up.

"As is expected, the system doesn't answer questions unrelated to culinary skills," Yuan Zhou muttered and then began to shell the

peanuts.

As a Sichuan Cuisine, the Drunkard's Peanut was a relish snack of the Han Nationality in Sichuan Province. It was processed and prepared with peanuts and other flavorings and was suitable for all ages.

Actually, it wasn't good to eat either fried peanuts or raw peanuts. Frying tended to destroy the nutritive value of the peanuts easily while raw peanuts was more likely to cause diarrhea as mentioned by the system and could cause obesity if too many were eaten.

The common cooking method of the Drunkard Peanut was normally frying, therefore, Yuan Zhou worked out a way to make the dish with another method. It was also an indispensable quality of a chef to guarantee the nutritive value of the dishes.

The peanuts provided by the system well deserved the reputation of Xiaojingsheng. The stripes over the surface of the peanut shell were distinct and deep while the color was natural and beautiful. After the shell was peeled off, the peanut kernels were intact and smooth, without any injury, worm holes or white fine powder.

Yuan Zhou prepared only four plates of Drunkard's Peanuts, of which three were for sale and the remaining one for himself to enjoy. It was another indispensable quality of a chef to eat foods cooked by himself and then tell the pros and cons of them.

The dinner time passed very soon. As usual, it was Shen Min who

took charge of the pub. However, Yuan Zhou also followed the customers into the pub today. There were several more people who came to drink the liquor today.

"Brother Yuan, I'm here especially for the dish that goes with wine," Jiang Changxi straightforwardly made eyes at Yuan Zhou and then said boldly.

"She's right. Changxi and I both come here to savor the dish." The very beautiful man followed.

"Since you have served the dish that goes with wine, I don't need to bring mine then," Fang Heng also echoed with a smile.

"Yes, I agree." Chen Wei likewise nodded the head at the side.

He finally managed to persuade Fang Heng to bring him here together. Naturally, there was also that strange man called Shen Xi, who had often been here these two days.

"Let's go. We'll know that after we get there. If we ask him here, he probably won't tell us anything." Ling Hong knew Yuan Zhou very well and hence said that.

"Yeah, you are right." Wu Hai nodded the head, too. Then he walked close to the sergestes wall and waited to enter the pub.

"Come on in, please." Hinted by Yuan Zhou, Shen Min opened the sergestes wall and made a gesture of "please".

"It seems that Boss Yuan is going to leave us on tenterhooks again." Jiang Changxi entered the door only after she said that with a smile.

"I have never expected there's such a hidden but beautiful spot." The good-looking man sighed with emotion while looking at the small garden.

"Su Mu, how do you like this garden compared with yours?" Jiang Changxi suddenly asked.

"Of course not so good as mine. You know my garden is designed by me, a great designer, personally." The one that was called Su Mu was also a beautiful man. He said confidently.

"Really? I think it's more elegant here in Boss Yuan's restaurant," Jiang Changxi said smilingly.

"No, I don't think so. Look at the *malus spectabilis* over here. It's good if the leaves are falling in due time, but is not if the fruits are falling. Besides, these flowers are planted without any aesthetic feeling, messy and not arranged neatly." Su Mu pointed to the flowers randomly and brought out several flaws.

"But the fruits of *malus spectabilis* are edible," Walking at the end of the crowd, Yuan Zhou said lightly after he heard Su Mu.

"But these flowers still have no aesthetic feeling at all." Su Mu

insisted.

On this point, Yuan Zhou really wasn't quite sure. After all, he planted the flowers according to his preferences, the fragrance and the pollen, etc.

Seeing Yuan Zhou no longer respond to him, Su Mu was very happy and even felt light-footed while walking.

The several people walked up the stairs and soon arrived at the pub seated in the bamboo forest.

"What if it rains on the open-air platform?" Su Mu stroked his hair style worriedly.

He wasn't worrying about getting caught in the rain but messing up his hair style.

"Don't worry. Boss Yuan never opens the pub when it rains," Chen Wei uttered that while grinding his teeth.

"That's good." Su Mu let out a sigh of relief. After he wiped the table and chair, he then sat down slowly.

"It's really worry-free to come out with you." Bold and unconstrained as Jiang Chang was, she never wiped these things, not to mention these things in Yuan Zhou's restaurants were originally very clean. Therefore, she wouldn't wipe them.

"We are offering a dish that goes with wine, the Drunkard's Peanuts. One serving for each table." Yuan Zhou took out the menus that were provided by the system and put one on each table.

"Wow, it's this dish. Marvelous!" Wu Hai was very happy.

As the Drunkard's Peanut had a spicy taste and belonged to Sichuan Cuisines, it was simply regarded as a meat dish to Wu Hai who loved spicy dishes most.

The spicy dishes served in Yuan Zhou's restaurant were still too less currently.

"A good dish. It's really a dish that goes with the wine." Chen Wei and Fang Heng were also both satisfied.

How could one drink liquor without the peanuts? Therefore, the two of them basically brought the peanuts by themselves whenever they came. They even brought them today as well. Coincidentally, the new dish was Drunkard's Peanuts.

"All of you need one serving for each, right?" Yuan Zhou confirmed with them again while Shen Min was raising the liquor.

"Of course. Please hurry up and carry it to us." The several people almost couldn't wait to eat it.

Even Jiang Changxi who didn't like eating peanuts became quite expectant as it was cooked by Yuan Zhou.

"One moment, please." Yuan Zhou came out of the kitchen while personally carrying the tray, where three plates of peanuts were placed. It was loaded in a compactly woven rattan basket.

Only after Yuan Zhou set down the plates on each table did the several customers find there on the basket were, surprisingly, green leaves that resembled the delicate peanut leaves with white and soft villus. The basket looked extraordinarily pretty and cute.

"The basket is so nice. Is it for sale?" Jiang Changxi paid attention to the basket first.

"No," Yuan Zhou refused flatly.

"Boss Yuan..." The voice of Jiang Changxi was like the honey that was blended with sugar, so sweet.

Nevertheless, Yuan Zhou directly ignored her. The other two tables nevertheless showed more interest in the peanuts inside of the basket.

"They look similar in size, but why are there chilli seeds in the peanuts?" Fang Heng was a little puzzled.

He stirred the peanuts lightly. Meanwhile, the peanuts emitted melodious sound in the collision. The chilli seeds appeared

extraordinarily conspicuous.

Anyhow, he was also running the pub business. The dishes with wine were likewise the signature dishes in his pub. Superior Drunkard's Peanuts definitely wouldn't have the chilli seeds inside, which tasted bitter if overcooked and were hard to chew if not well cooked.

Therefore, the chef would try to get rid of the chilli seeds when they cooked this dish. A good cook nevertheless would try his best to retain the spicy taste of the chilli seeds and meanwhile get rid of them. All in all, the chilli seeds couldn't be served to the customers.

"Forget it. We'll know the taste after we eat it. Look, they have started to eat over there." Chen Wei pointed at Wu Hai and Ling Hong who sat at one table and said.

"Ok." Seeing that, Fang Heng also agreed with a nod and then directly began to eat,

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Chapter 295: Three Elements of Crispness, Fragrance and Brittleness

"Ka". Fang Heng picked up a peanut kernel and carefully stayed away from the chilli seeds, which he didn't like at all.

Once the peanut kernel entered his mouth, he felt the difference from other kinds of Drunkard's Peanuts.

Take the peanuts in his own pub for example, he usually fried them in oil twice and then added the stir-fried flavorings inside and afterwards fried them together again with small fire to make them well blend.

Having been fried for two times, the peanut kernels tasted very crisp and fragrant. Plus the spicy flavorings, the peanuts were quite delicious. But there was a defect. When the peanuts entered the mouth at first, they usually had a layer of oil on the surface.

People could feel the oil fragrance overflowing and the peanuts were fairly tasty while eating them at first.

However, the oiliness of the peanut kernels was originally very high. It would naturally become greasy if eaten some more. It was unlike the old days when people did not consume a lot of oil and were anxious to put some more oil in the dishes.

Nowadays, people pursued the health more, therefore less oil were needed now to put in the dish of Drunkard's Peanuts.

The plate of Drunkard's Peanuts cooked by Yuan Zhou was totally different. Fang Heng couldn't help but utter, "There's surprisingly no greasiness at all."

"Ka Ka", the peanuts tasted fragrant, crisp and palatable, unlike the roasted ones that weren't crisp at all.

There were originally two cooking methods of the Drunkard's Peanuts. One was to fry in the oil and the other was to roast, each having their own advantages and disadvantages.

"Boss Fang, the peanuts are much tastier than yours." Chen Wei said while eating.

Fortunately, the peanuts were not big, thus he didn't need to worry he would choke.

Chen Wei was right. The peanuts were indeed very delicious. From the selection to the preparation of the peanuts, Yuan Zhou finished all the work by himself.

Not every peeled peanut kernels could be used directly as every kernel had to reach the standard of 1.5g in weight. Therefore, all the work had to be finished by hand. Comparatively speaking, it was naturally the Drunkard's Peanuts carefully cooked by Yuan Zhou that tasted much better.

"Remember I am treating you to the liquor today." Fang Heng

looked at Chen Wei with a meaningful glance.

"Forget about him. He's just mean." Shen Xi said unreservedly at the side.

"You brat, aren't you my brother?" Chen Wei revealed a speechless manner.

"Of course, yes. But you know, a guest can't speak against his host." Wearing plastic beige gloves as thin as cicada's wings, Shen Xi said deservedly while putting the peanuts kernels into his mouth.

"Ho Ho. You seem to forget that I brought you here," Chen Wei muttered discontentedly.

"I can't hear you." Shen Xi shrugged and didn't slow down his eating.

Wu Hai and Ling Hong who had begun to eat first nevertheless held a thought of going to eat others' peanuts after their own, therefore they ate the peanuts in their own plates quickly.

What a joke! How could a small plate of peanuts be enough for them if they didn't eat others' ones

As for the two people, Su Mu and Jiang Changxi, who ate differently over there, they well illustrated the word of elegance. When you got close, however, there was something beneath the

surface.

"Changxi, the peanuts are really delicious, but girls had better not eat too many." Su Mu answered with a beautiful smile on his face and two dimples on his cheeks.

"It's you who had better not to eat many. This dish is spicy, so it would be bad if you get pimples on your face." Jiang Changxi looked at Su Mu's face with an ill-disposed glance.

"Don't think too much. How could a man like me possibly get something like pimples?" Su Mu smiled lightly and said clearly.

"Narcissism is an illness. You have to get it cured." She said concisely and comprehensively and meanwhile ate quickly and gracefully.

"Narcissus, the person who loved his own shadow in Greek Mythology. Although I am incomparably pretty and handsome as him, I won't love my own shadow. I'd rather find an equally perfect girl." Su Mu liked smiling while talking. With his peach blossom eyes squinting, he looked prettier.

"Tsk. A good-looking man is surprisingly so narcissistic." Jiang Changxi felt rather speechless.

Lucky that the delicacy in sight could rescue her stomach, therefore she ate faster.

The peanut kernels were stuffed into her mouth one after another. Once the peanuts were bit into pieces, its sweet fragrance suffused into her mouth and then stimulated her mouth cavity with the spiciness. The numb taste paralyzed her tongue, which contrarily made her clearly feel the fragrance and crispness of the peanuts. Finally, she even felt the characteristic fragrance emitting from her mouth when she talked.

Of course, drinking a sip of liquor from time to time was likewise the best experience. Having been slightly restrained, Chen Wei just ate that way.

When he drank into the throat a mouthful of the sweet liquor alike to pear juice, he felt it incomparably smooth. After a spicy peanut kernel was eaten up, the previous sweetness was then instantly stimulated. The pungency contained in the taste of the liquor itself merged together with the stimulation from the chilli, numbness of the wild pepper as well as the crispness and fragrance of the peanut kernels.

All these flavors met in the mouth cavity and directly formed into an experience of an ultimate delicacy.

"Great!" Chen Wei couldn't help abandoning his usual solemnity and directly shouted.

"I even have a feeling as if I drank some hard liquor after tasting it. How comfortable!" Chen Wei set down the cup and said contentedly.

"That's not true. The peanuts apparently become tastier when eaten with the liquor. No wonder they are liked by the drunkards. The peanuts and liquor are really a perfect match." Su Mu interrupted.

"What does a young child know?" Chen Wei didn't actually like the slimy character of Su Mu.

"You seem to know a lot." Su Mu never knew what the word 'concession' meant.

"The liquor and the peanut kernels are originally a perfect match." Wu Hai uttered and supported Su Mu probably for the sake of Zheng Jiawei.

"Of course I know better than you do." For any sake, Chen Wei was a big man of 180cm height. He naturally wasn't afraid of Su Mu, who looked so weak.

"Chen Wei, this younger brother of mine is a tough guy," Jiang Changxi said smilingly.

"If I say this liquor can match hard liquor if drunken with the peanuts, then it is." Chen Wei had a persistent and impulsive side in his temperament. If not, how could he condescend to work as a martial arts instructor in a security company?

He had felt no hangover but instead felt refreshing on the second day after drinking the bamboo liquor. However, that didn't mean

the liquor had lost the magical power that gave people the impulsion. It was known that even Yuan Zhou was slightly drunken.

"This younger brother of mine stopped a thief from stealing last time on the bus. It was an organized group of thieves that included three." While drinking the liquor, Jiang Changxi explained.

"He was definitely beaten up badly," Chen Wei let out a humph.

"Yeah, right. The thief was beaten up badly because that thief sliced this guy's arm. There is still a scar remaining even now," Jiang Changxi pointed at the inner part of Su Mu's arm.

"I can do that, too." Chen Wei refused to concede defeat.

"But he has done such similar things quite a few times, so he isn't a young child anymore." After she said that, Jiang Changxi patted on Su Mu's shoulder.

"The manner of speaking and behavior habits don't mean anything," Wu Hai said slowly.

"Although Zheng Jiawei is like a woman, his ability and superior judgement are, nevertheless, the best. Speaking of which, many people are even jealous of somebody. They say somebody has a good sister." Ling Hong shrugged.

"Yeah, you are all right. I propose a toast to you. Let's just skip

it." Chen Wei knew Zheng Jiawei, therefore he was fairly straightforward.

He explicitly took up Fang Heng's wine pot and poured the liquor into his cup and then proposed a cup of liquor to Su Mu.

"Ow. I have to control my bad temper. But never mind. I don't mind these trifles." Su Mu stroked his own cheeks and then drank the liquor.

"You brat. You can make whatever toast, but why did you take my liquor?" Suddenly, Fang Heng made a miserable shriek and then shouted.

"Haw-haw. I'm not to blame." Chen Wei carried up half a cup of liquor and ran toward Wu Hai and Ling Hong.

"Stay away. You are such a wine barrel. I have no liquor for you." Ling Hong took the wine pot up wittily for fear that Chen Wei grabbed his liquor.

After all, this guy had done that before.

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Chapter 296: The First Invitation Card

How could the Drunkard's Peanuts prepared by Yuan Zhou be enough for these foodies? Fang Heng then took out the peanuts he brought with him.

"Come on. Have a try," Fang Heng said generously.

"Did you cook them?" Taking the wine cup, Chen Wei craned his neck and asked.

"No, I brought them from my pub," Fang Heng said spitefully.

"Then let's savor them together." Chen Wei instigated everybody to savor Fang Heng's peanuts. That way, there was no way for Fang Heng to look at him.

"The appearance is not so good as that of Boss Yuan's peanuts," Sitting close to him, Shen Xi said straightforwardly when he saw that.

"Indeed. The peanuts are not intact and not in the same size." Wu Hai said professionally.

"And the fragrance is also not as pure as that of the peanuts provided by Boss Yuan. It carries a glimmer of other tastes," Ling Hong said with a picky tone.

"They look so glossy and must be fairly greasy," Jiang Changxi said hesitantly.

"Ah. Why is there a tiny spot on this peanut kernel? Is this a worm channel?" With the sharpest eye sight, Su Mu easily caught sight of a black worm channel on a peanut kernel.

"That's enough. If you want to eat, then eat it. If you don't, stop bullsh*tting," Fang Heng said speechlessly.

These people showed much disrespect to him and were so hypercritical to his peanuts.

"Yes, yes, I eat. Since you have invited us so sincerely, we will definitely give it a try," Ling Hong looked rather serious as if he had made a very important decision.

"This is also the top-quality Drunkard's Peanuts. I have also removed the chilli seeds." Fang Heng covered his head with his hands and appeared to have a headache.

"It's not good to say so, but the chilli seeds in the Drunkard Peanuts prepared by Boss Yuan nevertheless have all been eaten up by us. It's like the taste of pine nuts, very delicious." Su Mu said hesitantly.

Then the several people nodded the head of one accord.

"If you guys don't like my peanuts, then leave them to me. I'm

going to put them away." Fang Heng felt that his greatest mistake today wasn't that he didn't stop Chen Wei from stealing his liquor, but was that he brought this bag of drunkard peanuts. Furthermore, he even took them out and invited others to eat.

"I'm eating." Shen Xi seemed to be eating the peanuts grudgingly with knitted brows.

"Ho Ho." Fang Heng had lost any desire to say a word. Inexplicably, he suddenly felt that Yuan Zhou actually had a good EQ. At least, Yuan Zhou wouldn't be so picky about his peanuts.

Therefore, the three hours' of pub time passed in the hullabaloo of the several people. During the process, Shen Min sat at her own position quietly and did her homework.

Theoretically speaking, there wasn't so much homework to do in the university, but as far as Yuan Zhou knew, Shen Min did homework until she got off work every night.

It was naturally the same today. After the customers left, she tidied up the pub cleanly and then carried the plates and wine cups to the kitchen to wash. It was the first time that she had cleared away the dinnerware of the pub.

"You don't need to take them to the kitchen. Just close the door and leave." Yuan Zhou stopped Shen Min.

"Never mind. I still have some time." Shen Min checked the time

and said confidently.

"No need. Go now." Yuan Zhou shook the head.

"Well, alright. Bye, boss." Seeing Yuan Zhou's firm manner, Shen Min didn't say anything more. She set down the plates decidedly and then left.

Standing on the second floor, Yuan Zhou could easily see Shen Min get on the last bus back to the university.

After all were gone, the entire restaurant became quiet.

"Maybe I should think about the invitation matter now." While clearing the pub away, Yuan Zhou muttered to himself.

The customers that came to the pub were all fairly restrained, therefore Yuan Zhou did the work quickly and easily.

Having finished the cleaning work, Yuan Zhou didn't return to his bedroom to rest immediately. Instead, he took the invitation card and began to think carefully whom to invite.

Some unfamiliar people passed by Yuan Zhou's mind one by one.

Yuan Zhou planned it very well. He would naturally invite an unfamiliar person to come for meals. Besides, it was anyhow the official invitation card.

"Pa", the spinning pen dropped on the table and emitted a melodious sound.

This habit was formed in his junior middle school. He liked spinning the pen while thinking of something, although he wasn't good at it.

Suddenly, an inspiration occurred to him. "Yeah, it's her. Let me see if she'll come and if this card has such magical power."

"Shua Shua Shua", Yuan Zhou filled a name, Ma Jia, into the blank of the invitee quickly

Yuan Zhou didn't actually know her very well, because she was an actress, more specifically a drama actress, whom Yuan Zhou had seen only once.

It was during his university days when the university invited a drama society, a very famous one, for a performance.

At that time, Yuan Zhou wasn't in a good mood. However, he failed to refuse his classmate's invitation and thus went to watch.

The drama was decent. As his seat was far from the stage, Yuan Zhou couldn't see their faces clearly. He even couldn't distinguish between the actors and actresses due to the lighting.

In the end of the performance, many students stood up to applaud. As a social being, he naturally found it inappropriate to be a maverick, hence stood up, too. Then, all the lights on the stage were turned on and a crowd of drama staff walked to the stage to acknowledge the applause.

Each of them delivered a speech of one sentence. During the process, some audiences went up to present bouquets.

Almost every person in the first row had a bunch of bouquets. Starting from the leading role, every one of them threw the bouquets on the stage behind them when they received the microphone as it slightly affected them, except the third leading role.

As she was wearing a short skirt, she made a half squat slightly and then put down the bouquets lightly before she received the microphone. Only after she stood up did she receive the microphone and start to make the self-introduction.

Seeing that, Yuan Zhou finally knew what he had felt uncomfortable with just now and thus remembered her name, Ma Jia, subconsciously.

Later, he also saw her occasionally in some television dramas or movies. But she seemed to be not very popular in that circle.

However, the image of her treating the bouquets and others' sincerity gently left an unforgettable impression in Yuan Zhou's heart.

Sometimes, the appreciation of somebody was just that simple with only some small details.

"Now, only to see if she'll come." Yuan Zhou took up the invitation card and prepared to put it on the second floor.

At that time, some changes took place on the card.

The handwriting on it changed into the print hand and at the blank space appeared a small figure slowly.

When he carefully looked at it, he found it was the image of Ma Jia.

"It looks like a postcard now. How marvelous!" Yuan Zhou took the invitation card and appeared rather curious.

If not that Yuan Zhou wrote the name by himself, he would doubt that it was a postcard of a star actress that was bought from somewhere. The size was similar to a postcard with yet different contents. It was essentially an invitation card.

"Other invitation cards will all change in this way in future?" Taking the exquisite invitation card, Yuan Zhou asked curiously.

The system displayed, "Yes."

"Ma Jia will come three days later. Does she know I give the invitation?" For a matter of such fantasy, Yuan Zhou preferred to ask clearly.

As for other unbelievable things, he could explained them with advanced technology. This one nevertheless appeared to be more fantasy-like.

The system displayed, "It's an invitation three days earlier. Host, don't worry. She won't know that."

"That's great." Yuan Zhou nodded the head.

After all, he didn't know Ma Jia but suddenly invited her and moreover she would probably come. That would be quite strange.

Besides, how could he explain that concerning other invitees?

"Just wait for three days now. It's simply a moment to witness the miracle." Thinking that he would soon see his favorite star actress, Yuan Zhou became a little excited.

Just when Yuan Zhou wrote the name down, the first invitation card was sent out successfully.

Chapter 297: Celebrity Effect

The invitation with the card had been sent out. At the other side, after Yuan Zhou offered the invitation to Huang Ling, she was very happy.

The first thing that she did after she returned home was to tell his younger brother about that good news.

"Huang Li, Boss Yuan invited us just now to go and savor his dishes tomorrow." As soon as Huang Ling opened the door, she said that.

"Really?" There was slight suspicion on Huang Li's pale face.

"Of course. He told me just now." Huang Ling nodded the head smilingly.

"Sister, I really want to go there, but I don't want to spend that amount of money." Huang Li revealed a surprised expression and then said hesitantly.

"We surely can't spend that money as it's for you to cure your leg." Huang Ling nodded the head earnestly and looked at Huang Li.

"Really? Are you serious?" Only then did a blush appear on the pale face of Huang Li as he become excited immediately.

"When has your sister ever cheated you?" Huang Ling nodded the head smilingly.

"Great. I can finally eat Boss Yuan's dishes." Huang Li stood up excitedly.

He liked Yuan Zhou very much, as matters involving Yuan Zhou were rumored to be miraculous and fantastic throughout this street.

For instance, his parents died unexpectedly and he survived independently and sturdily. After studying the culinary skills, he came back to inherit the restaurant and recreated the resplendence.

Some other rumors were directly saying that Yuan Zhou had a very high talent and studied the culinary skills from a royal chef. All in all, the rumors were all about some exaggerated stories that were complicate and eccentric. Yet, Yuan Zhou had no idea of that at all.

But Huang Li knew those rumors. Most importantly, he got to know that Yuan Zhou's parents also passed, to which he found an emotional connection. Moreover, he heard that Yuan Zhou's restaurant had been chosen as a regional landmark on the gourmet map.

That made Huang Li feel an even stronger emotional connection. Therefore, he was fairly expectant to go to Yuan Zhou's restaurant to have a meal. It's just that he shrunk back at the sight of the very

high price.

Now that he got an opportunity to taste the dishes for free, Huang Li naturally became incomparably excited and believed more that Yuan Zhou was a nice guy.

Unknowingly, Yuan Zhou received another Nice Guy Card and a young votary in passing.

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On the next early morning, Huang Ling saw her brother throw the clothes everywhere in the room when she came back from the cleaning work.

"What are you doing there?" Huang Ling was a little surprised.

"I want to find some good clothes so that we can go to eat decently," Huang Li said with slight embarrassment.

"Let's me be your consultant and give you some advice," Huang Ling said smilingly.

"Great. Thank you, sister." Huang Li cheered up immediately.

They picked the clothes for a while until Huang Li got satisfied and then they went out. Of course, it was still early, but neither of them liked to be late.

When they arrived, Zhou Jia was on shift.

"Come on in, please." Zhou Jia welcomed the sister and brother into the restaurant. There were not many customers outside by then. It was actually only 11:30 a.m. when they arrived and the business time hadn't started.

"Thank you." Along with Huang Li who tried to walk steadily, Huang Ling walked into the restaurant unhurriedly.

"There you are." With a nod, Yuan Zhou greeted them.

"Thank you, Boss Yuan," Huang Ling took Huang Li to the seat and said courteously.

"Don't mention that. I have to thank you for your help," Yuan Zhou said with an earnest manner.

"But still, thank you all the same, Boss Yuan." Huang Ling answered with a smile.

"Here are all the dishes available today on the menu. Please check if you need something else." Yuan Zhou signaled Zhou Jia to report the names of the dishes and then asked politely.

"That's good. They are more than enough for us. I heard that no wasting is allowed here." Huang Ling nodded the head smilingly.

"Yes, there's indeed such a rule." Yuan Zhou nodded the head.

At the side, Huang Li nevertheless didn't say a word all along. With his head lowered, he looked around constantly and occasionally looked back at the crowd that had formed a line. Of course, Yuan Zhou was likewise inevitably peeked at by him again and again.

"Let me go to prepare the dishes first." After saying that, Yuan Zhou went back to the kitchen.

"Alright. Thank you, Boss Yuan," Huang Ling said politely.

After Yuan Zhou went away, Huang Ling asked Huang Li softly, "Huang Li, why didn't you talk?"

"I didn't mean to keep silent. Sister, look at Boss Yuan." Huang Li was a little embarrassed. There had been always a flush of excitement on his pale face.

"He's awesome." As soon as Huang Ling raised her head, she saw the flowing knife skills of Yuan Zhou.

Yuan Zhou was supposed to be cutting the Translucent Beef Slices right now. Through the single beef slice, they could see the appearance of the knife very clearly at the other side. And when they looked closely at it, they found such a thin beef slice didn't break at all.

Just like that, the two of them watched Yuan Zhou show off his craftsmanship and each dish cooked by Yuan Zhou. They were all like the work of art.

Then they got clear why the people outside formed a long line every day to eat in Yuan Zhou's restaurant. Of color, fragrance and taste, only the visual effect had been able to reach the full score. Plus the seemingly wonderful taste, it was way really normal to have such good business.

When all the dishes were served to them and they were about to eat, the crowd outside likewise began to enter the restaurant for the meal.

However, they showed no interest in anything else except the dishes in front of them. The taste straightway conquered the two of them. As for the rules that Huang Ling bore in mind concerning how to savor, she had already forgotten them behind.

At such a wonderful moment, enjoyment was the most important. They would rather eat first before giving opinions.

Therefore, the meal paid by Boss Zhao and provided by Yuan Zhou in the name of dish tasting made the sister and brother feel quite satisfied. They even felt slightly embarrassed as they really couldn't bring out any opinion.

Lucky that Yuan Zhou spoke sincerely all the time although he looked a bit indifferent. Therefore, when he said, "If you, as the

customers, feel satisfied, others would feel the same way," to them, the sister and brother became relieved.

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After the invitation matter ended, two days passed as usual. During the few days, Yuan Zhou had been practicing these exotic cuisines absorbedly.

At the other side, there was also some movements about Ma Jia who was invited by Yuan Zhou.

Though she wasn't so popular, her acting skills nevertheless enjoyed great popularity among the people. As a result, many film crews asked her to act as a supporting actress. Recently, she was invited again to put on a play by a television drama.

Coincidentally, she was, right now, at a place not far from Yuan Zhou's restaurant along with the film crew.

It was an episode in the winter. With her former working background as a drama actress, Ma Jia had solid acting skills and, moreover, was willing to endure hardship. She put on makeup early and got dressed up in the cheongsam and dummy marten coat in the high temperature of 30 degrees or so.

Her entire person revealed a feeling of supreme elegance. The eye lines that reached the outer corner of her eyes and the cheongsam with the slit up to the thighs made her appear indolent and

charming.

In less than half an hour after the shoot began, something happened to the film director. Somehow, he suddenly suffered from diarrhea and asked to stop the scene for two hours.

At that time, Ma Jia's assistant went up and helped her to change clothes.

"Just take off the coat and leave the cheongsam on me. Otherwise, I will have to put on makeup and get dressed up again," Ma Jia said with a gentle and sweet voice.

"Ok. Sister Jia, do you want to go out and wander around?" When her assistant found Ma Jia had nothing to do, she hung up the clothes and then suggested.

"Alright. There are only a few people around. Let's go out." Ma Jia also wanted to go out for a rest.

"Let me take you to wander around and eat something at the same time. You haven't had your breakfast yet. We can have lunch outside and come back in time." The assistant checked the time and then said.

"Ok. Let's go." Ma Jia changed her own high-heeled shoes and then went out with her assistant.

While preparing the dishes for lunch, Yuan Zhou suddenly

muttered to himself, "The first customer that I invited seems to be arriving today."

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Chapter 298: Yuan Zhou's Preference

"The first customer that I invited seems to be arriving today," Yuan Zhou suddenly muttered to himself.

People were usually mentally perturbed about what's going to happen. Nevertheless, Yuan Zhou didn't worry if she would come, but he suddenly thought of something else.

"Speaking of which, can I invite those who I have never seen before, system?" Yuan Zhou asked suddenly.

The system displayed, "Yes, you can."

"Does that mean I can invite some genuine celebrities? That way, it can increase the popularity of my restaurant." Stroking his forehead, Yuan Zhou said earnestly.

"For example, Vladimir Putin, the Russian president?" Yuan Zhou started imagining.

Then with a glance, he saw an international news, "Or else, the newly elected President Trump of USA is also welcomed. He has his own personal aircraft, doesn't he?"

"Forget it. This gentleman doesn't seem to have a high EQ. So maybe next time." When he thought of the news about Trump, he denied the idea immediately.

"I might be able to do something big. The big boss of my country?" Yuan Zhou thought of the chairman that visited around other countries on behalf of China and considered the possibility dumbly.

"No. The matter of purchase channel hasn't been solved yet." Yuan Zhou patted on his thighs and remembered something important.

"System, can you tell me now about the purchase channel of the ingredients?" Yuan Zhou straightforwardly asked the system.

The system displayed, "Host, with your current level of culinary skills, you are still unqualified to know that."

"What if the authority investigates us?" Yuan Zhou said worriedly.

The system displayed, "Don't worry about that, Host. Please work hard to get your level up."

"Honestly, is the supply of the ingredients available in reality?" Yuan Zhou asked with a firm tone.

The system displayed, "Host, please work hard to get your level up."

"Well, alright." Yuan Zhou had nothing to say then.

"Forget it. Anyway, I don't know those celebrities." The reason why Yuan Zhou wanted to invite those big people was to increase the popularity of his restaurant.

Immediately, Yuan Zhou rejected such thoughts, because it was his own wish to see Ma Jia.

"Money can't deprive me of my willingness." Looking at the glistening golden bank card in his drawer, he said confidently.

Ever since the matter of that royal chef, Yuan Zhou had been less anxious to increase the popularity of his restaurant. Instead, he had a higher pursuit of the culinary skills now.

For now, the dishes and the popularity matched each other well. The moon waxes only to wane. This principle was nevertheless well known by Yuan Zhou.

After Yuan Zhou finished his internal conflicts at this side, Ma Jia who was dressed in the cheongsam walked near with an unhurried pace along with his assistant.

"Sister Jia, what shall we eat?" Dressed in a short-sleeve work clothes, the assistant asked neatly.

"Xiao Wu, do you have any recommendations?" Looking at the surrounding tall buildings and the theatrical scenery at the side, Ma Jia said in a daze.

"Sister Jia, actually I haven't been here before, either." The assistant called Xiao Wu was a little embarrassed.

"Then let's go for a casual stroll and have lunch whenever we see a restaurant." Ma Jia jumped with joy and suggested happily.

"Ok, you decide." Xiao Wu nodded the head and then followed Ma Jia forward, strolling aimlessly.

"This place is really strange. There are many tall buildings in front, but there is an old residential area here." Ma Jia pointed at the side street where Yuan Zhou's restaurant was seated and said.

"It should have been undeveloped yet. It will definitely be rebuilt later," the assistant, Xiao Wu, said affirmatively.

"Yeah. Such kind of old residential areas will vanish and disappear in future," Ma Jia said with emotion.

"Sister Jia, look there. So many people are there in the line. Shall we go for a look?" The assistant Xiao Wu was also a lively girl. Of course, she was likewise quite capable when she worked.

"It might be something to eat?" Ma Jia covered the belly and said subconsciously.

"And it must be delicious. Otherwise, there won't be so many

people waiting there." Xiao Wu took out a face mask and handed it to Ma Jia.

"It appears that I have a cold when I wear this," Ma Jia said with a tone of self-mockery while wearing it.

"No. You are so beautiful." Xiao Wu praised her sincerely.

It was indeed like what she said. Although it appeared a little strange to wear the cheongsam on the street, Ma Jia absolutely looked great in it.

While they were talking, the two of them walked to the line. It was definitely her assistant who was responsible for asking questions at that time.

"Excuse me? Why are you forming a line here?" Xiao Wu asked politely.

"For a meal, naturally." The man asked saw two good-looking women when he turned the head and thus his tone became more genial.

"This is the restaurant of Boss Yuan. Is this your first time to be here? You'll get used to it after several more times. There are so many people every day. Come early and you can eat; if you come late, there won't be any chance," the man explained carefully to them.

"Is this Boss Yuan a culinary master?" Xiao Wu asked curiously.

"A master? No, Boss Yuan just cooks delicious dishes. You'll know the taste after you eat any of them," the man said confidently.

"We'll consider that." Xiao Wu was quite interested in that, but she had to give this to her boss Ma Jia to decide.

"We'll eat there." Ma Jia stood there for quite a while, but nobody went up to accost her. Only then did she said with ease.

"Alright. I'll wait here in line. Sister Jia, just wait for a moment." Xiao Wu said with full spirit.

"No, you can't do that way. No replacement for waiting in line and no take-out." The man reminded kind-heartedly.

"So many rules?" Looking at the ordinary restaurant and then the growing number of customers, Xiao Wu became slightly speechless.

"Sister Jia, what do you think?" She looked at Ma Jia and waited for her to make the decision.

"Never mind. Let's just get in the line." Ma Jia didn't have a haughty manner like other star actors.

If not that she was once recognized and got stuck in the food market when she went to buy vegetables, she wouldn't even wear the face mask when she went out.

Therefore, it wasn't worth mentioning at all to wait in line.

Nevertheless, a man at the side took a look at her curiously, but soon he turned to count the number of people ahead of him attentively and waited for his meal.

Ma Jia and her assistant came a little earlier than others, thus they didn't wait too long until they got their turn.

"What do you want to eat today?" It was Sunday and Shen Min was on shift.

"Where's your menu?" Xiao Wu asked.

"One moment, please. This is the menu for you two." Shen Min handed the menu to them with courtesy.

"Wow. The menu is really nice. How beautiful!" Xiao Wu had a fancy for the elegant menu at the first sight.

"It's indeed exquisite." Ma Jia also nodded the head.

"Thank you for your compliments. What do you want to eat?" Shen Min nodded the head with a smile and then inquired.

Just when Shen Min asked them, Yuan Zhou saw Ma Jia. He failed to recognize her at the first sight and only saw her after the system reminded him.

The sight of her brought a feeling of excitement to him. Now he was also somebody who had the honor to invite a star actress.

Many wishes were being accomplished gradually. Yuan Zhou enjoyed the process very much.

"Shall I ask for a signature?" Yuan Zhou considered in the heart.

Right after that, he denied this idea of his.

During the business time, he had to be responsible for other customers. Such a trifle as asking for signature could be done later.

As was known, Yuan Zhou was now a person that could earn millions of RMB every month. Even if he wanted to invest in film-making, it would be a small of cake to let Ma Jia be the leading female role.

For now, it was more important for him to buy a house, more specifically, a villa.

Yuan Zhou thought that generously.

Chapter 299: Authentic Streaky Pork

Having appreciated the beautiful and elegant menu, Xiao Wu and Ma Jia started to check what dishes were provided.

When they saw the price, Ma Jia just raised her eyebrows in surprise, but didn't say anything. Nevertheless, Xiao Wu shouted loudly, "Boss, are you receiving Thai baht?"

"Sorry, we receive only RMB." Shen Min emphasized smilingly.

"They are so expensive." Xiao Wu felt slightly awkward. She was merely an assistant and her monthly salary was less than 4000 RMB. How could she afford such expensive dishes?

"Xiao Wu, I will treat today," Ma Jia said with a smile.

"Thank you, but that's not good," Xiao Wu refused solemnly.

"Never mind. I want to treat to thank you for accompanying me out today." Ma Jia glanced at her with her big eyes, which appeared rather affecting and charming.

"No." Xiao Wu refused again.

"Do what I say." Ma Jia became serious right away.

Her whole person looked more majestic immediately. Then Xiao

Wu no longer refused her.

"I want a serving of Egg Fried Rice," Xiao Wu ordered only one dish smartly.

"I want this one, this one and this one. That's all." Ma Jia ordered a serving of Jinling Prawns for herself and some other dishes of beef and vegetables liked by Xiao Wu.

She didn't order any main dish as it may result in a bad figure in the drama clothes if she ate too much. As an actress, she had to maintain her nice figure.

This time, the dishes ordered by Ma Jia were carried up to them by Yuan Zhou personally.

"Here are the dishes for you two. Take your time." Yuan Zhou revealed a smile rarely.

"Ok, thanks." Ma Jia thanked him with a nod, but didn't take off the face mask.

"Humm." Yuan Zhou nodded the head and then returned to the kitchen and started to prepare the dishes ordered by another customer.

Not until Yuan Zhou turned around did Ma Jia take off the face mask and begin to eat.

Yuan Zhou saw the scene clearly, but he didn't really mind at all.

...

The weather never reasoned with humans. Especially after the air pollution got more serious, it became more capricious.

It rained whenever it wanted to. Lucky that the system was more precise than the weather report and had already predicted it would rain today.

Therefore, Yuan Zhou rarely took a break in the evening

"Pa Pa Pa Pa", the continuous and incessant raindrops emitted faint sound on the ground.

"I have the liquor, but still lack some delicacies." Looking at the inky sky, Yuan Zhou stroked his forehead and thought earnestly.

"Pi Li Pa La", Yuan Zhou groped around in the kitchen and suddenly found a grill.

"Isn't it a BBQ grill? Why is it here?" Yuan Zhou took the small grill and became fairly curious.

This time, however, the system answered him without being asked.

The system displayed, "It's a cooking utensil provided by the system."

"Tsk tsk. It seems my dinner is solved." Yuan Zhou suddenly had an inspiration and worked out what to eat.

Due to the rain, Yuan Zhou didn't have lunch in the afternoon and specially waited until the night, preparing to eat something good.

The readymade flavorings and top-notch food ingredients tempted him.

He took out a piece of marbled pork from the fridge. The pork was used to make stuffing for the soup dumplings and still had the pork skin on it.

And another piece of fresh beef that was used for the dish of Translucent Beef Slices.

He took them under the tap and washed them clean with the water. After that, he removed the anadesma with the miracle kitchen knife. That way, it wouldn't have any offensive smell when it was grilled.

The marbled pork was cut into pieces about half a fingernail thick and then stacked into the plate.

Likewise, after the anadesma was removed, the beef was cut into thin slices about half a palm large.

Another ingredient was the well-prepared tofu. Yuan Zhou specially prepared the tender tofu in the afternoon and packed it in a bamboo box.

Then, he caught a string bag of prawns. After washing them clean, he directly took out the veins and put them in a plate without removing the shell.

And moreover, half plate of Jinling Grass and a pot of tea leaves used to boil the tea eggs were soaked with hot water by Yuan Zhou.

The entire kitchen was lively and hectic. And the sound of "Pi Li Pa La" could be heard without end.

"Why aren't there bamboo slips for BBQ?" Looking at the bamboo on the steamer, Yuan Zhou was thinking of something.

The system displayed, "The kitchen items have all been provided. Host, you can take anything by yourself."

"System, you know a lot about what I'm thinking today," Yuan Zhou said contentedly.

However, the system just ignored him and dumbly went invisible again.

Following the characters on the cabinet, Yuan Zhou opened one of them and then found the bamboo slips were stacked neatly in it. Yuan Zhou then became satisfied.

"Was it worrying that I would dismantle the steamer?" While stringing the meat with the bamboo slips, Yuan Zhou made a wild guess.

Yuan Zhou did the work very fast. Having finished that work, he naturally needed to find a place to do the BBQ.

The second floor of the pub was a nice place as what was provided by the system wouldn't be so unscientific.

Even if there wasn't a roof, Yuan Zhou had already found that the place was totally out of the reach of the rain.

Therefore, it was an ultimate enjoyment to eat the BBQ while drinking the liquor and listening to the wind and rain.

"Ah, shall I compose a poem?" Yuan Zhou lit the charcoal and said with a poetic sense.

Of course, the charcoal was also sponsored by the system for free. As for the total price shown on the system, Yuan Zhou indicated that a disappointing matter like that was not worth mentioning when he was happy.

After all, the rapidly increasing price was still affordable to Yuan Zhou.

"Forget it. Grilled meat is more important." Yuan Zhou looked at the surrounding bamboo silently and gave up the idea of taking the bamboo shoots to eat.

Yuan Zhou put several kebabs of streaky pork on the grill first.

No matter it was kebabs or hot pot, Yuan Zhou liked to cook them one by one. That way, he could better monitor how well done the food was and also the taste of it.

In a short while, the streaky pork was roasted thoroughly and it released the fat with the sound of "Zi Zi".

"Let me get some eagle claw tea." Yuan Zhou took out the prepared tea water and brushed it on the pork.

With the temperature rising, the fragrance of the tea was slowly roasted out along with that of the fat.

Tea could essentially increase the fragrance of meat, especially the delicate fragrance of the pork.

Tea first and then various BBQ flavorings were added onto the roasted pork. Every flavoring would bring the streaky pork on the grill a particular fragrance, which overlaid all other fragrance.

"It seems my craftsmanship for making BBQ is also very nice," Yuan Zhou said confidently.

Three minutes later, the roasted streaky pork with scorching aroma that was enjoyed by Yuan Zhou was available to be eaten.

"I give full score to the fragrance. A sip of liquor first makes it a better enjoyment." After Yuan Zhou drank a cup of bamboo liquor, he started to eat the kebabs.

The streaky pork provided by the system was quite standard, half lean meat and half fat. After it was roasted above the charcoal fire, the fat flowed out and then wrapped the entire piece of pork, which smelled just wonderful.

"Awoo." Yuan Zhou gulped down an entire piece.

"Yummy." He couldn't help praising.

The entire piece of streaky pork that had been gulped down had evenly-distributed fat and lean meat. The lean meat had sort of scorching aroma and the fat over the lean meat had been thoroughly roasted out, leaving only the tender texture.

During the chewing, the fat even gave him a feeling that the oil was almost about to burst out. Plus, along with the lean meat that was roasted dry, it was simply the supreme delicacy.

"Ba Ji Ba Ji", Yuan Zhou chewed the pork constantly. When it went to the pork skin, it likewise wasn't greasy at all.

It tasted refreshing, smooth, flexible and chewy. Moreover, it contained an abundance of collagen.

"Great!" Yuan Zhou couldn't help but shout that.

"Ouch. My beef." Having savored the pork for a while, Yuan Zhou suddenly came to realize that he was still roasting something else. Luckily it was the beef this time.

It only required a little time and stir-fried salt before it was ready for eating.

It didn't require any other flavorings. Of course, Yuan Zhou preferred to eat up the roasted streaky pork now.

"This is just the authentic roasted streaky pork." Yuan Zhou signed with emotion while eating.

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Chapter 300: Titled Mission

Yuan Zhou ate very fast. When there were only three sticks of streaky pork left, he began to eat the beef kebabs.

The beef didn't have any oil at all this time, therefore, Yuan Zhou used something else to replace the oil itself.

He brushed something blended with the oil of bamboo shoots over the beef and immediately, the fragrance of the beef rushed into his nose. The pure meat fragrance instantly filled the bamboo forests on the second floor.

"It's truly good beef." Yuan Zhou sighed with emotion and then gulped down a beef kebab right away.

This time, he didn't dip it in the salt, but directly ate it up.

Once the beef entered his mouth along with the delicate fragrance of the bamboo shoots, he tasted faint saltiness from it although there wasn't any salt over the beef.

"Yum!" Yuan Zhou squinted and said contentedly.

"Zi Zi", the sound of roasting beef was melodious like a symphony.

It was also a reminder for Yuan Zhou that the beef could be eaten

now.

Yuan Zhou took the beef kebabs and dipped them into the specially-prepared salt.

The stir-fried salt wasn't that saline. Various condiments added into the salt carried slight fragrance and melted together.

Yuan Zhou dipped 1/3 of the beef into the salt and then put it into his mouth and began to chew.

The beef was so tender that with only a simple bite, the juices burst out from it. The salty taste over the beef immediately stimulated the freshness of the beef itself.

The well-melted condiments inside the beef served as a foil to the intrinsic taste of the beef.

"As is expected, it's the best option to dip it in the salt and then eat it." Yuan Zhou ate up quite a few pieces of beef continuously.

The taste of the beef was quite unique. Even just by roasting it so simply could the taste be so marvelous.

Compared with the beef from Luxi yellow cattle in Heze district that enjoyed the reputation of three layers, it tasted more delicious and was simply a top-notch delicacy when grilled.

For quite a while, Yuan Zhou was immersed in the great taste of the beef. He then suddenly remembered that he still had other ingredients.

Like the processed prawns, one in each bamboo slip. Having grilled it until it grew bright red, Yuan Zhou began to peel off the shell and eat the plump prawn meat.

The Jinling Grass was nevertheless easier. Yuan Zhou poured some salt over it and grilled it slightly. When it turned yellowish, Yuan Zhou took it off the grill and began to eat.

After Yuan Zhou had it in the mouth, the crisp and tender stalk emitted the delicate fragrance of the plant and his mouth was immediately filled with fresh and refreshing texture.

He laid the ingredients on the grill one by one and observed the heat very carefully according to his preference. This meal was definitely fantastic.

"Liquor, kebabs and tasty dishes. A life of comfort." Yuan Zhou was seated there at ease.

Occasionally, he looked out at the light rain and at the grill. Right after that was a sip of liquor. It was such a comfy life.

At that time, the system suddenly uttered a sound.

The system displayed, "Congratulations, host, for that you have

activated the titled mission."

"Er...?" Yuan Zhou revealed a manner of bewilderment. What the hell was that?

The system displayed, "Congratulations on completing a BBQ mission once. The reward is now available to be received."

[BBQ mission] To complete a BBQ independently

(Mission tips: the word 'independently' naturally means you do that without being reminded. Congratulations, host.)

[Mission reward] the title of BBQ Master, Junior.

(Reward tips: An unexpected reward is surprising, isn't it?)

Having checked the mission, Yuan Zhou had a deep feeling of helplessness.

"Seriously speaking, I don't feel any surprise." The matter of pie in the sky was never believed by Yuan Zhou before.

Now that he had the system, he became more suspicious about it.

The pie provided by the system was usually poisonous. After eating it, there would always be unexpected consequence.

The system displayed, "Host, please receive the reward."

"Not necessary, but thank you all the same." Yuan Zhou refused flatly without any slightest hesitation.

What a joke. Receiving the reward?! After he had received the title of Master of Cooked Wheaten Food last time, the business hours were shortened to 6 hours. It was an absolutely bloody lesson.

"Want to dig a pit for me? Not that easy." Yuan Zhou thought that proudly.

Then, the pub in the bamboo forest on the second floor grew quiet. It was so quiet that one could even hear the needle drop and the small raindrops fall on the ground.

The system had probably never anticipated that Yuan Zhou would refuse it so quickly.

After quite a while, the system displayed, "This reward is free of charge and can be received right now."

"No, I don't want it." Yuan Zhou gulped down a beef kebab and then refused.

The system displayed, "The reward will vanish unless it's

received."

Through the word of the system, Yuan Zhou saw its helplessness.

Except the time-limited reward, the system hadn't reminded him like that before.

However, Yuan Zhou still answered positively, "No need. Let it disappear."

Yuan Zhou was at ease and comfortable while eating the appetizing grilled beef and occasionally grilled prawns.

Even when he refused the reward, he appeared extraordinarily firm and direct.

This time, the system might have also become speechless and hence kept silent for some time.

Not until Yuan Zhou ate up all the kebabs did the system display a line of words slowly, "It's the special reward in memory of the system coming into being for xx years. Host, please receive it."

"System, do you know you sound more like the malls that offer a sales promotion with the way you talk?" Seeing the system's answer, Yuan Zhou was a little speechless. However, that just hardened his determination not to receive it.

Having tidied up everything, Yuan Zhou added, "For those malls that offer anniversary discounts, their purpose is to earn more of the customers' money."

After a pause, Yuan Zhou continued saying, "System, do you want to cheat me again since you are inviting me to receive the reward so anxiously?"

The system displayed, "If you receive the reward right now, you can directly level up to Master of Kebabs."

"Really? What's that used for?" Yuan Zhou was fairly interested in that.

The system displayed, "With the title, you can master how well done the food ingredients are, the allocation of different flavorings and the compounding ratio of the food ingredients."

"Is that all?" After that, Yuan Zhou became even more uninterested in the title.

The most important thing for kebabs was the material and heat control. Yuan Zhou had the top-notch food ingredients and originally had good craftsmanship, therefore he wasn't in special need of that title.

The system displayed, "After receiving the title, you'll automatically get the mastery of kebabs."

"Unnecessary, really. I feel it's good, anyhow." Yuan Zhou pointed at the empty plates and then said contentedly.

When he tidied up the dinnerware back to the kitchen, he continued saying, "Now, I even have the invitation card to realize my wish of seeing whoever I like, so I don't need the reward title anymore."

Yuan Zhou said that with a tone like "I know you just want to cheat me, but I have seen through everything".

"Besides, I have already had a title." With a shrug, Yuan Zhou indicated that he really didn't want that reward.

The system displayed, "Host, your title of Master of Cooked Wheaten Food is only at a basic level."

"Then if I receive the reward, can you make the junior title into the highest grade?" Yuan Zhou asked tentatively.

The title of Master of Cooked Wheaten Food helped Yuan Zhou a lot when he prepared the wheaten foods.

The ability to learn more quickly and infer other things from one fact were all very good experiences.

The system displayed, "No."

"Then why would I receive it?" Yuan Zhou set down the grill and said straightforwardly.

The system fell silent for a while and only displayed something when Yuan Zhou finished his work.

Moreover, the conditions that offered by the system made Yuan Zhou unable to refuse this time.

"Look. If you have such favorable conditions, why don't you tell me earlier? Come on, let's talk about it carefully," sitting in his own chair, Yuan Zhou said with a smile.

If the system had consciousness, it might let out a sigh of relief to see Yuan Zhou's such performance. A reward free of charge was eventually sent out.

Whether or not it was a scam, only Yuan Zhou knew that.